

Care Fees “A Problem to be Faced”

Toni Chalmers of Tee financial plc advises on care fees planning

As we grow older retaining our independence and health is extremely important to us. However, for some, there comes a time when, physically or mentally they are no longer able to care for their own needs, and alternative arrangements need to be put in place.

Contemplating placing a relative (or friend) in a care home can be emotionally draining. The process of finding a suitable care home and sorting out the legislation, not to mention helping your loved one come to terms with the significant changes to their lifestyle can be extremely hard. Add to this the emotive and often confusing financial situation and it is not surprising to learn that many people feel stressed and worried.

A good deal of the stress and anxiety involved in this situation can be relieved with the aid of a professional care fees planner. But whom do you turn to, and how can you be sure that they not only have the necessary formal qualifications, but also have your loved ones best interests at heart?

The safest course is to consult a member of Symponia. The aim of Symponia is to provide an unrivalled care fees planning service, delivered by professional advisers to the residents (and their families) within care homes.

All Symponia members must be authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority and have successfully completed a comprehensive Criminal Records Bureau Check. In addition, they will have not only obtained the mandatory Chartered Institute's Long Term Care examination CF8, but they will have passed Symponia's own rigorous written assessment.

That might seem like a tough regime to comply with but it is one that is extremely reassuring for potential clients. Happily, Symponia is a nationwide umbrella body with specialists who can be referred to throughout the UK.

A particular concern with care fees is the financial aspect – especially where the relative (or friend) has assets over £22,250, which means they will not qualify for assistance from the Local Authority. This figure includes the value of their property, apart from the first 12 weeks of needing care.

This is where an Independent Financial Adviser, especially a Symponia member, is well placed to help. Each and every family approaches the funding of care fees differently; therefore they all deserve personal and bespoke attention. Symponia

member advisers will endeavour to supply details of all the options available for every circumstance, making sure that family objectives are met.

The emphasis, especially where Symponia members are concerned, is on respect and care, with the fundamental objective of enabling people to choose where they are cared for, with the peace of mind that they will be able to meet rising care costs indefinitely; whether care is needed now or at an unknown time in the future.

For details of your local Symponia member and care adviser,
Visit www.symponia.co.uk or call 01789 774959

About Toni Chalmers Dip PFS & Cert CII (MP & ER)

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