Information about a research project in the Court of Protection

You have been given this leaflet because you are the applicant, or a person served or notified about, a case in the Court of Protection.

Researchers from Cardiff Law School are conducting a study on the Court of Protection. The purpose of the research is to help improve public understanding of who is using the Court of Protection, for what purpose and with what outcome.

The study involves collecting **statistical** data from files in the Court of Protection. The data the researchers collect would include demographic information about the applicant, respondents and the relevant person (for example, whether the applicant and respondents are family members or public authorities, and information about the age and disability of the relevant person). The researchers will **not collect any personally identifying data**, such as names or addresses of any of the parties, and information about the subject matter of the case will only be collected in the broadest terms (e.g. whether it is about a residence issue, or medical treatment). The researchers are also interested in procedural questions like how many hearings each case typically has, how many reports are gathered for different types of cases and whether the parties were represented by solicitors or barristers.

The researchers would only publish the information in the form of graphs and statistics – no case studies would be used, and care would be taken to exclude any data where individuals or cases could be identified. The researchers would follow the requirements of the Data Protection Act in handling the data.

**The applicant or any person notified can object to this case being included in the study, there is no need to give a reason why.** You can object simply by returning this form to the Court of Protection – you do not need to complete a COP5 form to do so. **If the Court of Protection receives no objections within 21 days, the Court will make an order granting permission for the researchers to access the file for use in the study. Therefore, if you agree to your case being included in the study there is nothing more you need to do.**

If you have questions about the study, you can find out more about it from the University’s website at:

http://sites.cardiff.ac.uk/wccop/

The lead investigator is Professor Phil Fennell. You can contact him by email (Fennell@cardiff.ac.uk), by telephone (+44 (0)29 208 74344) or at: Cardiff Law School, Museum Avenue, Cardiff, CF10 3AX.

Name (in capital letters):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Court of Protection Reference Number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Were you (please circle):

the applicant a respondent a person notified about the case

Please tick in the box to confirm that you do **not** want this case to be included in the study 🞏

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to refuse this case for inclusion in the study, please send this completed form back to the Court of Protection at:

The Court of Protection, First Avenue House, PO Box 70185, 42-49 High Holborn, London, WC1A 9JA.

**Alternatively you can use the** **CourtofProtectionHearings@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk** **e-mail address stating your refusal details as above and must include your name and case number.**  **Returning this form does not replace the need to return the COP5 acknowledgment of service/notification form.**

**HMCTS has given Data Access Panel Approval for this study.**