

Open Justice Court of Protection Project

Exciting opportunity for advocates to gain experience and real world understanding of the Court of Protection

INTERESTED?

We would like to invite advocates (newly qualified and those in training) to get involved in the [Open Justice Court of Protection Project](#). Kate Mercer Training is offering support to advocates undertaking Qualifications in Advocacy to gain valuable experience and insight into the CoP whilst simultaneously contributing to the work of the Project.

What is the Open Justice Court of Protection Project?

The Project works to promote *Open Justice* in the Court of Protection – an English court, established in its current form under the Mental Capacity Act 2005, with the authority to determine whether adults have the mental capacity to make key decisions in their lives (such as where they live, whether they undergo serious medical treatment, whether they maintain contact with family members), and to make decisions in the best interests of those deemed to lack capacity. The decisions made by the court on behalf of some of the most vulnerable members of society can be life-changing, and the case law it produces impacts the rights of disabled people far beyond the walls of the court rooms.

The project encourages public access to the court by raising awareness of the rights of Public Observers. By sharing court listings, with details of hearings that are open to the public, the project provides information and practical support for people wishing to observe the CoP in action. People acting in the Public Observer role can then report on hearings making the whole process more accessible and transparent.

For more information please check out <https://openjusticecourtofprotection.org>

What would it involve?

You would choose a court hearing to observe and then write a report about what happened. The best reports are ones which include reflections on your experiences not just a factual account of what happened. You might want to also explore what attending the hearing taught you, surprised you, shocked you, engaged you or enraged you. Its also good to think about how the person at the centre of the

decision (often referred to as 'p') was involved and how their voice was heard. You might also want to reflect on the role of advocacy.

What are the benefits?

The main benefit for you is getting real world experience of sitting in on a hearing and witnessing the inner workings of the Court of Protection. If you are working or studying to become an advocate, then you may want to access the Court in your role on behalf of your advocacy partners. This experience will help you learn more about the Court – much more than you may glean from reading about it from a text book!

The report that you write, can also be used as evidence within your Qualification Portfolio – so not only will you be getting experience, you'll be ticking off evidence for your qualification too!

And lastly, by writing your report and contributing to the work of the Open justice project you would also be contributing to a body of work about the CoP which would not otherwise not be available to the public. Win:win all round 😊

Next steps

You can register to join an introductory on line support session facilitated by Gill Loomes Quinn. Gill, who is the co-founder of the Open Justice Project, will be holding this on March 14th @ 12pm.

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_I1N9OOGzTRS5vG-vDwZn0g

The session will explore a bit more about the project, how to choose the hearing and do's and don'ts when acting in the Observer role.

Get involved. Learn. Grow. Contribute

