



**Protecting your legal rights is  
even more challenging if you are  
dealing with Mental Health issues.**

**Legal Aid Specialists**

[www.duncanlewis.com](http://www.duncanlewis.com)



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# Mental Health

**Mental Health Law is highly specialised and an area in which Duncan Lewis has operated a successful department for several years. Indeed, we are the largest provider of mental health legal aid services in the UK.**

We assist those suffering from mental health problems who are being compulsorily detained under the Mental Health Act 1983.

The Mental Health department, led by Mental Health Panel Members, is proud of the level of care we give to our clients and their families. The team's dedication to improving the quality of life for their clients is matched only by their expert knowledge in this area.

The department is concerned about the individual rights and liberties of those being detained and will endeavour to exercise patients' legal rights and advise them while in hospital detention, including scrutinising all forms of medical treatment.

Persons detained under the Mental Health Act are eligible for free legal advice and assistance. It may also be possible for a relative of someone detained to be eligible for financial assistance.

Our team can arrange appointments at any hospital at short notice and, while based in London, routinely assist clients at locations across the country. Please contact us to speak to a specialist.

## Services

Duncan Lewis can assist you in the following areas:

- Advice and assistance in all areas of the Mental Health Act 1983, including admission to hospital, consent to treatment and aftercare provisions
- Lawfulness of detention and the appropriateness of treatment
- Commissioning independent psychiatric reports and social circumstances reports
- Advising the nearest relatives of their role and rights
- Representation at Mental Health Review Tribunals
- Provision of advice and assistance at Managers Hearings, Renewal meetings and can request to attend CPA meetings
- Challenging the Decisions of Tribunals and Primary Care Trusts by way of Judicial Review Proceedings

You can find more information about our Mental Health team and the services they provide, by contacting us directly on our telephone number 020 7923 4020 or by visiting our website at [www.duncanlewis.com](http://www.duncanlewis.com)

# 400 staff, 17 departments, 10 Legal Services Commission franchises: we have the expertise you need.

Whatever the area of law where you need help, you will find a committed Duncan Lewis lawyer to guide you through. With 17 departments and 400 staff sharing 65 nationalities, we have the specialist expertise to ensure you get the best possible legal advice.

## Mental Health

Our specialist department assists those suffering from mental health problems who are being compulsorily detained under the Mental Health Act 1983. We also help the family and loved ones of those affected.

## Child Care Law

Our Solicitors specialise in dealing with Local Authority applications to remove children; Discharge of Care Orders; Child Protection Conferences; Emergency Protection; Secure Accommodation and Child Protection (Police and Social Services); Adoption; Guardianship & Surrogacy and all child – related matters.

## Community Care

The team ensures that adults, children and carers have access to community care services from Local and Health Authorities, including housing and financial support under community care legislation.

## Conveyancing

We use the most up to date technology to deliver an efficient and cost effective service.

## Crime

Our Crime Department are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year on 07957 331436 or 07956 374988.

## Debt

We can assist in all debt, bankruptcy and liquidation matters.

## Employment

We act for both employers and employees in connection with all aspects of the employment relationship, including drafting employment contracts as well as procedure manuals. We also represent clients in Employment Tribunal claims relating to dismissals and discrimination claims.

## Family

We advise on all aspects of family law. We advise on pre-nuptial agreements, divorce and civil dissolution matters, as well as complex ancillary relief cases. We frequently advise on cases which have an international element, including obtaining forced marriage protection orders.

## Housing

Specialising in homelessness, disrepair, attending courts for Possession Proceedings, harassment, housing benefit issues and much more.

## Immigration

Our extensive knowledge and vast experience in general immigration, business immigration and asylum law is second to none.

## Litigation

Our expert litigation lawyers can act for you in connection with all types of legal dispute. We offer flexible funding arrangements including “no win, no fee” agreements.

## Mental Health

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## Personal Injury

If you have been injured in any kind of accident in the street, in your car or at work, we have expert solicitors who can pursue a claim for compensation on your behalf, on a “no win, no fee” basis.

## Public Law

The decisions of public bodies, where there is no other right of appeal, can be challenged by judicial review. We have experience in all aspects of judicial review in County and High Courts, the Court of Appeal, the House of Lords and the Supreme Court.

## Welfare Benefits

We are able to assess those who are unsure if they are receiving the correct benefits or are having problems getting the benefits to which they are entitled.

## Wills and Probate

We specialise in the drafting of Wills to help you make proper provision for your loved ones in the event of your death. We also act to obtain “Probate” to help you carry out the wishes of someone you have lost.

You can find more information about our Mental Health team and the services they provide, by contacting us directly on our telephone number 020 7923 4020 or by visiting our website at [www.duncanlewis.com](http://www.duncanlewis.com)

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**Duncan Lewis**  
Giving people a voice

We use the word ‘partner’ to refer to a shareowner or director of the company, or an employee lawyer with equivalent standing. A list of directors is displayed at the company’s registered office address, together with a list of those persons who are designated as partners.

and qualifications.