



YOUR SUPPORT THROUGH COURT FUNDRAISING PACK



NO ONE SHOULD FACE COURT ALONE

Every year, thousands of people in the UK face court alone. Often through no choice of their own, they must represent themselves at a moment that could determine the rest of their life. They may face divorce, eviction from their home, or losing access to their children. In an unfamiliar courtroom, up against a party with legal representation, the process can be stressful and confusing.



We stand with those who have nowhere else to turn. We provide a free service across England and Wales, offering support and guidance before, during, and after court.

We make sure people facing court are not alone and help them navigate a complex legal system with dignity and self-assurance. Everyone has a right to a fair hearing. We believe that any individual or family seeking help should feel listened to and understood. No one should have to face court alone.

HOW WE HELP

Our 500 volunteers across England and Wales offer free and independent help, tailored to the needs of each individual client.

Our volunteers provide emotional and practical support before, during and after a court hearing so that clients are assisted during the whole process. We listen to our clients and help them order their thoughts and enable them to present their case to the best of their ability.



Crucially, our volunteers can sit alongside clients in court, and in remote hearings they can share the experience and talk to the client afterwards.

MOLLY'S STORY

Name and image changed to protect privacy

Molly recently left her partner, who had been abusing her. Molly had shared a business with her ex-partner, so leaving him meant losing both her home and her income. After she'd left, her ex decided to take her to court about the living arrangements of the pet they owned together. She felt this was his last-ditch attempt to keep control over her and it made her extremely anxious and stressed. When Molly first came to us, she was extremely emotional and intimidated by the court process ahead of her.

We listened to Molly's story and acknowledged that she had been through a lot. This gave Molly a space to cry and unload her anxieties at a time when she felt increasingly alone. We took Molly through the free help that was on offer for survivors of domestic abuse and empowered her to contact these services. We also explained that she could write to the courts to let them know about her PTSD and any other circumstances that would make the hearing even more stressful. This also included advising them of her experience with domestic violence and giving her the option not to see her ex if the hearing was in court.

We also reassured Molly that she could have a volunteer attend the trial with her, so she didn't have to digest all the information by herself. After the session, we sent through an email with suggested next steps, so she had a record of what to do which she mentioned was extremely helpful for her. Molly was visibly relieved to have someone there to listen to her story. She felt calmer knowing that she had options and places to turn to and, crucially, didn't have to go through the whole process alone.

OUR NUMBERS

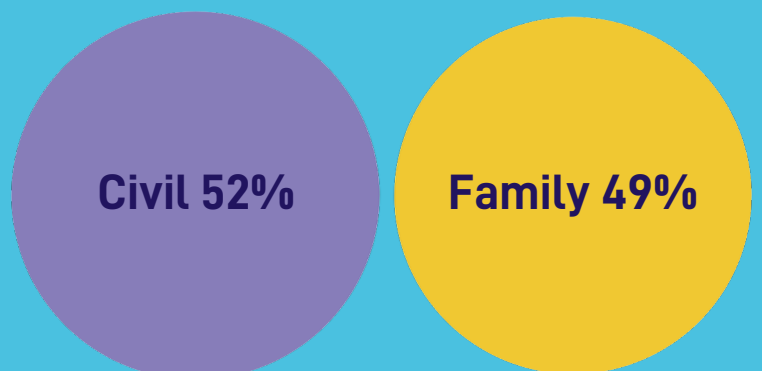
COST PER CLIENT:

£35 TO ACCESS INVALUABLE
SUPPORT FROM A VOLUNTEER

OCCASIONS WE HELPED:

2021/22: 49,346
2022/23: 57,383
2023/24: 51,178

CASE TYPES:



FUNDRAISING IDEAS



Whatever you do will really make a difference to vulnerable peoples lives, so here are a few ideas to get you started!

SOCIAL:

- Host a quiz night for your friends
- Show off your baking skills with a cake sale
- Hold a murder mystery night
- Run a book club with a joining fee
- DIY/Gardening/Bike Repairing? Offer up your skills to friends and charge them a donation

DO SOMETHING DARING:

- Sign up for a sky dive, bungee jump or wingwalk!
- Change your hair up! Dye it pink or shave it off for a good cause!
- Run/Hike/Cycle the length of the UK/Everest/Snowdon

FITNESS:

- Take part in a sporting event and raise funds for your hard work!
- Running events, triathlons, hikes and virtual walks are all great options.
- How about hosting an office olympics?

GIVE SOMETHING UP:

- Give up that bad habit and get sponsored to do so!
- Collect donations instead of birthday/Christmas/festive gifts
- Save all your coins for a month or year and donate them!

SET UP AN ONLINE FUNDRAISING PAGE:

It's the easiest and fastest way to get your fundraising to us!

Set up your fundraising page [here](#) !

TOP TIPS FOR GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR PAGE:

1. Fill out your contact information and make sure to include a profile picture!
2. Set a target to motivate yourself and your supporters
3. Tell donors the impact of their support. You could include stats from this pack.
4. Share your story. Let people know why you are supporting us!
5. Email your contacts - approach people who are most likely to donate first, motivating others to do so. Sending follow up emails is a good idea too.
6. Post about what you are doing on social media and share the donation link! Get friends and family to share it around.
7. Include the donation link in an email signature or WhatsApp bio!
8. Always thank your supporters and let them know the difference they are making.
9. Contact any local press and let them know your plans and see if they could advertise your achievements.

ORGANISING YOUR OWN EVENT? STAY SAFE AND LEGAL



It is important to make sure that everyone at your fundraising event is safe whilst having fun. You must comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and all other relevant subordinate legislation. Support Through Court cannot accept responsibility for accidents, so make sure that your event is safe for all concerned. Charity fundraising is regulated by law. You as a fundraiser and Support Through Court can be fined for non-compliance with legal regulations which also include health and safety regulation.



BRANDING

By law, the Support Through Court charity registration number (1090781) must appear on all posters, collection buckets and advertisements that invite people to participate or help. If you would like use of our logo, or require some poster templates please contact us via events@supportthroughcourt.org.



CHILDREN

Always ensure that children are safe and that you do not allow them to collect money without an adult.



CARRYING MONEY

If you are going to be carrying money take care with personal security. Always use a safe route and be accompanied.



STREET COLLECTIONS

If you want to collect money in a public space, you must first obtain permission to do so. To collect in the street, you will need a licence from the local council who will also give you a set of rules to follow during your collection. Street collection are a popular means of fundraising so you need to apply for a license well in advance. To collect on private property, e.g. a shopping centre, you must ask for permission from whoever is responsible for it. Door-to-door collections are illegal without a license.



RISK ASSESSMENT

Make sure that no-one is fundraising, working or spectating in an unsafe environment. Assess the risks involved and make sure that they are eliminated, or minimised to an acceptable level. If contractors, sub-contractors or external facilities are used, make sure they have the relevant experience and can demonstrate compliance with insurance and health and safety standards.

ALCOHOL

A licence is needed if you have alcohol at your event. You can avoid this issue by either holding your event on licensed premises or by asking a local pub to organise a bar at your venue. Event organisers need to issue a Temporary Event Notice to the Local District Borough Unitary Council. See the DCMS website for more information <http://www.culture.ov.uk/>.



FOOD

Food safety laws apply when food is available at an event whether it is for sale or not. You need to be aware of these and follow food hygiene procedure. Further information can be obtained from you local authority environmental health department. We recommend you include ingredient lists at cake sales for allergy sufferers.



LOTTERIES AND RAFFLES

Lotteries are arrangements where people pay to participate for the chance of winning a prize. When an element of skill is introduced then it becomes a competition and has fewer restrictions. A raffle is just another word for lottery. We recommend you only hold an incidental non-commercial lottery as these are the easiest lotteries to administer. When a raffle is not the main focus, but part of a larger event, a licence is not required. There must be no cash prizes, and the ticket sales and announcement of the results must be carried out during the event. No more than £500 can be spent on buying prizes although there are no limits on the value of donated prizes.



For further information on keeping your event safe and legal please talk to your local Support Through Court Service Manager or email events@supportthroughcourt.org.



PAYING IN YOUR DONATIONS

Thank you for raising funds for our vital work supporting litigants in person. Here's how to make sure your sponsorship reaches us.

Online

The simplest way to donate money is by either having a [fundraising page](#) set up on our website, or by paying via the donate area on our [website](#). Make sure to reference your name and event so we know where to process your donation.

Direct Bank Transfer

Bank Account Name: Support Through Court

Sort code: 40-52-40. Account number: 00087516

Please add a reference that this is your fundraising donation, and email fundraising@supportthroughcourt.org so we can verify your payment.

Cheque

Payable to: Support Through Court.

Post to: Fundraising, Support Through Court, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL

Please add a reference that this is your fundraising donation, and email fundraising@supportthroughcourt.org so we can verify your payment.

Gift Aid

If you are a UK taxpayer, we receive an extra 25p from the Inland Revenue for every £1 you give at no extra cost to you. If you have donated by cheque or direct bank transfer, please take a moment to complete the below gift aid declaration.

Fill out a [downloadable gift aid form](#) and post it to us at Fundraising, Support Through Court, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL