



A Legal Insight

Your Monthly Newsletter from
Chhokar & Co

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Week Commencing 23rd Nov 2020

Editor's note

Welcome to this week's newsletter which includes articles of the legal happenings that have been taking place. This is a way for you to stay informed of current news and legislation changes.

All the topics that are covered in this newsletter are areas of law that we deal with as a firm so if you have any questions or queries arising from any of these articles, Chhokar & Co is here to help.

You can contact our Head Office in the United Kingdom by e-mail, via SKYPE and by phone. You can also contact us through our website Enquiry Form: www.chhokar.com.

- Aman Bhambra

Contents

Property	Page 2-3
Family Law	Page 3-4
Immigration	Page 4-5
Trusts, Wills and Probate Law	Page 6-5
What's new?	Page 7
Contact Us	Page 8-9

PROPERTY

Green Homes Grant Scheme

The UK Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, gives landlords an extra 12 months to complete the Green Homes Grant work. This service is used to apply for a grant of up to £10,000 towards the cost of making a home more energy efficient. The Green Homes Grant scheme is only available to home owners and residential landlords in England. Home owners and landlords will have until March 2022 to get their projects completed through the Green Homes Grant voucher scheme.

*For more information about this scheme please visit the official gov.uk website:
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-green-homes-grant>*



Landlords with existing possession orders

The UK government has expanded on the lockdown regulations by making clear when landlords with existing possession orders are able to evict. One exemption for this will be 'substantial' rent arrears which will be classed as those over nine months. These new regulations will only relate to England and will enable bailiffs to attend properties to execute a warrant of possession, the death of a tenant, an unoccupied property and tenants involved in anti-social behaviour or those who have built up substantial rent arrears.

Airbnb and fire safety standards

The UK government has been considering applying the same fire safety standards to Airbnbs that currently apply to traditional lets. There has been an ongoing debate about whether the current bill, which holds property owners to account for managing fire risks, should be revised by ministers as it does not include short-term and holiday let owners.

At Chhokar & Co we aim to deal with a wide variety of client matters including corporate services in which we offer property management and rent collection, if you would like more information or have an issue you wish to discuss with us please contact us at +44 (0) 208 574 2488 or law@chhokar.com

FAMILY

Safety from Domestic Abuse and Special Measures in Remote and hybrid Hearings

A report has been published on the 'Safety from Domestic Abuse and Special Measures in Remote and hybrid Hearings' by Sir Andrew McFarlane (the President of the Family Division). Sir Andrew stated: "I am pleased to be publishing this important guidance on the need to protect victims of Domestic Abuse in Remote and Hybrid Hearings". This report seeks to provide guidance to all family proceedings where domestic abuse has been proved or may have been an issue and has been drafted to ensure the delivery of safe evidence and full participation of vulnerable parties.

Incidents of harm to children under the age of 1

According to the Ofsted's chief inspector, Amanda Spielman, there has been an increase in incidents of harm to children under the age of one. During an online conference held by NCAS (National Children and Adult Services), it was stated that between April and October of this year there has been over 300 serious incident notifications with approximately 40% of these involving babies.



Here at Chhokar & Co, we pride ourselves in our family law work, if you have any enquiries regarding the article or any other family law issue, contact us contact us for a consultation at +44 (0) 208 574 2488 or law@chhokar.com.

IMMIGRATION

Free movement

The Immigration Bill, which will end free movement on 31st December 2020 from 11 pm, has passed through the UK Parliament. This will result in the freedom of movement in the UK for all EU citizens, without registered residence being restricted. Free movement will be replaced by a new points-based immigration system; those wishing to come and work in the UK will have to apply for permission first and will have to collect the necessary points to come to work and live in the UK post-December 31. Irish nationals will be eligible to continue living in the UK, while nationals of the rest of the EU, EEA countries and Switzerland who move to the UK before December 31 should apply for the EU Settlement Scheme in order to be able to continue living in the UK after June 30, 2021.



Immigration and Asylum interviews to continue during lockdown

The Home Office has declared that the Immigration and Asylum interviews will continue to take place during the second lockdown in England. Under Exception 2, it is possible to leave the home if 'it is reasonably necessary for the person concerned to leave or be outside' which includes asylum and immigration services and interviews. The list of reasonable excuses to leave home can be found in regulation 6 of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 4) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020 No. 1200).

Immigration is a serious and complicated matter, here at Chhokar & Co we have years of experience dealing with immigration matters. Feel free to contact us for a consultation at +44 (0) 208 574 2488 or law@chhokar.com

WILLS, TRUST & PROBATE

'DIY' Wills

According to the research by law firm Richard Nelson, the Google searches for 'DIY Wills' have been on the rise leading up to the second national lockdown. Some people would consider this to be a 'worrying' trend because the DIY Wills are often based upon a standard template which are not suitable for everyone. Ms Wigg, who

works as a consultant solicitor, stated: “Many individuals across the UK are keen to prepare their will because of the pandemic and looking for a quick and remote solution, so instinctively searching online for a template.”



Backlog of Probate claims

Dealing with the death of a loved one can be a challenging process; the impact of Covid-19 has worsened this process in many ways. As a result of Covid-19 there has been a growing backlog of probate claims which have been frustrating bereaved families, lawyers and accountants. The probate process has been a ‘longstanding issue’ in the legal world, dragging out what is already an uncomfortable and distressing task. There have been assurances from HMRC and HM Courts and Tribunal Service that the probate situation is improving, although this is still debated.

Here at Chhokar & Co we are experienced in wills, trust and probate. If you have any enquires regarding your Will arrange for a consultation by calling +44 (0) 208 574 2488 or emailing law@chhokar.com.

WHAT'S NEW? -The Latest news from Chhokar & Co Solicitors

Grand opening of our Gerrards Cross Office

On Friday the 18th September 2020, we were joined by the local MP Joy Morrissey to unveil the latest addition to the Chhokar & Co family: our Gerrards Cross office in Kent House! This new office will be home to our Senior Partner, Mr Santokh Singh Chhokar alongside our Trusts, Probates & Wills solicitor Harpreet Kaur Virk.



Please note we are no longer operating from the Slough High Street branch.



Limited Offer!

£650.00 plus VAT for making both of your Lasting Power of Attorneys!

Special Promotion for Lasting Power of Attorney

This year has been tough for most of us, however to show our appreciation for your continued support and patience during this unprecedented time we are pleased to offer you a discounted rate of £650.00 plus VAT (original price £750) for making both of your Lasting Power of Attorneys (Property & Financial and Health & Welfare).

This offer will last over the period of the UK's second lockdown (05 November- 2nd December 2020.)

It's our way of saying: Thank you!

To find out more call us on for a free initial consultation on:
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or visit our website for more information: www.chhokar.com

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