



# Dads House Legal Advice Clinic: Law Firm Partnership Opportunity

## About Dads House

Dads House was established in 2008 by William McGranaghan with the aim of helping single dads with the practicalities of raising their children alone. Its mission is to help all dads, regardless of their circumstances and be available to them when they need it the most. Dads House has gained a credible reputation and many local authorities and Government organisations will often contact Dads House to help with a range of issues faced by single dads. The premises in Elephant and Castle provide for a safe haven for dads to spend time with their children and take part in activities, including football tournaments, breakfast clubs, drug and alcohol testing and a drop-in centre where dads can seek general support.

## Local Need

There are around 1.8 million single parents in the UK, making up nearly 1 in 4 families (Gingerbread). According to the Office for National Statistics, 400,000 families were headed by single fathers in 2012, representing 13.5% of all single-parent households in the UK. While just below 3 million of all children in families live in single parent families (ONS, 2019), one million of them have no meaningful contact with their fathers (Centre for Social Justice, 2013).

As a result of cuts to legal aid funding under LASPO 2012 many more dads are having to face the family court system alone and are unable to afford the costs. The financially precarious position of many single parent families also means that many are unable to pay for legal services. Following from this, Dads House has noted a decline in mental health of fathers who walked away from their children.

## Dads House Legal Advice Clinic

In order to help single dads address their legal issues, Dads House is seeking to establish a Legal Advice Clinic. The vision for the service is as follows:

- a drop in model without triaging in advance;
- limited to initial advice and form filling in areas of family law;
- once per week on Wednesday evening between 6.00pm and 8.00pm;
- at the Dads House premises inside the Elephant and Castle shopping centre.

## Law Firm Partnership Opportunity

Dads House is the first drop in centre where single dads in the UK can seek a range of support services 6 days per week and is looking for a law firm to help them realise a more holistic approach by adding a legal support service for single dads.



The firm's volunteers will gain first-hand practical experience in a unique service for single dads. Further, it allows for volunteer solicitors to develop skills that are rarely or not used in fee-earning practice, becoming more versatile and well-rounded. Valuable skills attained through pro bono volunteering include interviewing skills, problem analysis, client relations and dealing with 'difficult' clients. It further allows for lawyers to work together across teams and offices for a common goal, creating a 'one firm' identity.

## Interested?

Please contact:

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