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England and Wales, with Scotland and NI

COP3 request pack

A letter asking for the assessment, a checklist for hiring an assessor, and an evidence sheet. For a Court of Protection application in England and Wales.

General information, not legal advice. Every fact was read from its source on **3 October 2026**. The form and the court fees were checked again on **10 October 2026**. Law and prices change, so check the source first.

For England and Wales only. Scotland and Northern Ireland have no COP3. Their routes are on **page 28** of this pack.

Take advice from a solicitor if anyone may object, the family disagrees about who should act, or the person's affairs are complex.

Before you send anything

Check each of these first:

- ☐ Part A of the COP3 is filled in, with the decisions numbered. The form is edition 01.24, 21 pages, on GOV.UK.
- ☐ You know who to ask first: the GP, a consultant, or a social worker who already knows the person.
- ☐ Your letter sticks to facts. A copy goes to the court with the application.
- ☐ For money and property, you have a short summary of the person's finances.
- ☐ You have started the attempts log. Write down every request, and every reply.

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What to do

The order to try

- [ ] **First, ask the doctor who already knows them:** the GP, or a consultant treating them. Send Part A and the request letter. No rule we found obliges a GP to do it, so ask the fee before they start.
- [ ] **Or a social worker who is already involved.** Councils set their own policy, and do not have to help with a family application.
- [ ] **If both say no, hire an independent assessor.** Ask the checklist questions before you book. The price tables are in the reference pages.
- [ ] **If nobody can do it, tell the court why.** File a witness statement on form COP24 with the application: why you could not get one, what you tried, and why you believe the person lacks capacity. The attempts log is your record.

What to send with the request

- [ ] Part A of the COP3, completed by you, with the decisions numbered.
- [ ] For property and financial affairs, the person's general financial circumstances: the form says this is useful to the assessor.
- [ ] Your covering letter, kept to facts. The form says a separate letter to the practitioner should be sent to the court with the application.

What to do

The request letter

From _____

Address _____

To _____

Date _____

About _____

Date of birth _____

Request for an assessment of capacity: Court of Protection form COP3

I am applying to the Court of Protection in England and Wales about _____. The application is about their **property and financial affairs** / **personal welfare** (cross out one). The court needs an assessment of capacity on form COP3 with the application.

I have completed Part A of the form, which sets out the decision or decisions the application is about. I enclose it. Please would you complete Part B, or tell me if you are not able to.

You know _____ as their **GP** / **consultant** / **social worker**. The assessment needs to cover each decision listed in Part A, as at the time you see them. They can be seen _____. To take part, they need: _____.

If you charge for this work, please tell me the fee before you start.

If you cannot do the assessment, a short reply saying so would help, and the name of anyone you suggest. If no assessment can be obtained, the court asks the applicant to explain what was tried.

As the COP3 form asks, a copy of this letter will be sent to the court with the application.

Yours sincerely,

Signed _____

Name _____

Enclosed: Part A of form COP3, completed.

What to do

Before you hire an assessor: the checklist

Ask each question before you book. Write the answer on the line. If any answer worries you, ask someone else.

- ☐ **Are they registered, and with whom? Check the register yourself.**
  Social workers: Social Work England (England) or Social Care Wales (Wales). Psychologists and therapists: the HCPC. Doctors: the GMC.

  _____

  _____

- [ ] **How will they answer question 4.2: their professional relationship with the person, and that their opinion is free from conflict of interest?**
  The form asks every assessor to confirm both.

- [ ] **How will they answer question 4.3: their qualifications, training and experience of assessing capacity under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and its Code?**
  The court reads this to judge whether they are an appropriate assessor.

- [ ] **Will they assess each decision in Part A separately, at the time it needs to be made?**
  Capacity is decision-specific: the form says it is about the relevant matter, not decisions in general.

- [ ] **Will they see the person in person, or remotely?**
  Remote is allowed, but question 6.10 asks them to say why, and what support was given.

- [ ] **What does the price include: preparation, the visit, travel, the report? Is VAT included?**
  Travel is usually extra, and 9 of the 19 firms we read do not say how VAT is treated.

- [ ] **If there is more than one decision, is that one price or two?**
  Published prices for two decisions at one visit run from **£550 to £1,200**.

- [ ] **When do they want paying?**
  Several independent assessors take payment in full before the appointment.

- [ ] **How soon will the completed form come back to you?**
  Published turnarounds run from a draft in 24 hours to 10 days after the visit.

☐ **Can the visit be timed so the assessment is still current when you apply?**
The form says the assessment must contain current information.

Notes: anything else they told you

What to do

The evidence sheet: Part A, worked out first

Work out your answers here, then copy them into Part A of the COP3. The numbers in brackets are the form's own questions.

The person
Full name, date of birth, address, and their GP practice.

The decisions (Part A, 2.1)

Number them. Be specific: 'whether to sell 4 Elm Road', not 'her finances'.

The order you are asking for (2.2)

For example: to be appointed property and financial affairs deputy.

Your relationship to them (2.3)

Son, daughter, spouse, friend, professional.

What helps them decide (3.1)

Hearing aids, glasses, the best time of day, a language, a trusted person in the room.

Why a court order is needed (3.2)

What has happened, and what cannot be done without it.

Their general financial circumstances (property and affairs)

Income, savings, property and debts, roughly. The form says this is useful to the assessor.

Why you believe they lack capacity for these decisions

What you have seen, with dates. If no assessment can be had, the court asks for this.

What to do

The attempts log

Write down every request and every reply, with the date. If no assessment can be had, the court asks you to say what you tried, in a witness statement on form COP24 (Practice Direction 9A, paragraph 14).

Date	Who you asked	How (letter, phone, visit)	Their answer

Reference

Who can complete Part B

The form says Part A is completed by you, and Part B by an **appropriate assessor**. It says assessors who may be appropriate include **medical practitioners and social care professionals**. It does not say a GP must do it, and its list is not closed.

> **What changed.** The 2017 edition (12.17) said the practitioner may be a registered medical practitioner, for example the person's GP, psychiatrist, approved mental health professional, social worker, psychologist, nurse or occupational therapist. The edition in use today, 01.24, names medical practitioners and social care professionals. Guidance that still says "a doctor, nurse or qualified professional" is following the 2017 list.

Question 4.2: the assessor states their professional relationship with the person, and confirms their opinion is free from conflict of interest. A relative making the application is unlikely to meet this. That is our reading, not a rule written in the form.

Question 4.3: the assessor states their qualifications, training and experience of assessing capacity under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and its Code of Practice.

The test they apply. Can the person make this decision, at the time it needs to be made? If not, is that because of an impairment of, or a disturbance in the functioning of, the mind or brain? They cannot decide if they cannot

understand the information, retain it, use or weigh it, or communicate a decision. Every practicable step to help them must be tried first, and an unwise decision is not, on its own, a lack of capacity.

Sources: Form COP3, edition 01.24; Form COP3, edition 12.17 (a law firm's copy); MCA 2005 s.1; MCA 2005 s.2; MCA 2005 s.3; MCA 2005 s.42; Mental Capacity Act Code of Practice.

> **Check who you are hiring.** Social workers: Social Work England (England) or Social Care Wales (Wales). Psychologists and therapists: the Health and Care Professions Council. Doctors: the General Medical Council. Search each register by name.

How to ask: four routes, in order

Ask the doctor who already knows them

Start with the GP, or a consultant already treating them. Send Part A filled in, and a short factual letter: the request letter in the pack. No rule we found obliges a GP to do it, the BMA says reports for courts are not contractual NHS work, and some practices refuse legal capacity assessments as a policy. If they agree, ask for the fee before they start.

Sources: BMA, providing court reports; BMA, why does my doctor charge fees; Stockport Medical Group policy; Ide Lane Surgery policy.

Or a social worker who is already involved

The form lists social care professionals among the assessors who may be appropriate. If a council social worker already knows the person, ask them. No rule we found obliges a council to do this for a family's application, and councils set their own policy: one approved a charge of **£330** in 2022.

Sources: Form COP3, edition 01.24; West Sussex County Council, COP3 guidance (2014); London Borough of Havering decision (2022).

Hire an independent assessor, with the checklist

If both say no, an independent social worker, psychiatrist or psychologist can do it privately. Use the checklist before you book: registration, independence (question 4.2), experience (question 4.3), in person or remote, what the price includes, VAT, travel, payment and turnaround.

Sources: Form COP3, edition 01.24.

If nobody can: a COP24 witness statement

If you cannot get an assessment — for example, the person does not live with you and you cannot take them to a doctor, or they refuse to be assessed — file a witness statement (COP24) with the application. It explains why you could not get one, what you tried, and why you believe the person lacks capacity. The attempts log in the pack is that record.

Sources: Practice Direction 9A; GOV.UK, apply to be a property and financial affairs deputy; GOV.UK, form COP24.

Reference

What it costs: every price dated

There is no set fee. Doctors and assessors set their own. Below is what each publishes, read on **3 October 2026**. These are advertised starting prices, not what families paid. "From" means the price can go up. England and Wales only.

GP practices that publish a fee: **£71** to **£400**. Independent assessors: **£290** to **£950**; the middle of the 19 is **£500**. 10 of the 19 firms say how they treat VAT. We name firms only to show what each publishes. None is recommended.

Independent assessors (19)

Firm

Mental Capacity Assessment
Independent assessors, Bristol

Published price

£290 for every assessment, COP3 for deputyship included
VAT included

Visit, travel and terms

In person or online, across the UK. Travel not itemised. Turnaround not stated.

Firm

Chesil Social Work Services

Independent social workers, Dorset

Published price

£350 for a COP3 on finances

plus VAT

Visit, travel and terms

Mostly face to face. **£1.00** a mile beyond 5 miles of Dorchester. **£400** for health and welfare plus finances. Extra visits **£50** an hour.

Firm

Mental Capacity Ltd

Independent assessors

Published price

£350 per assessment (COP3 Part B is among them)

VAT not stated

Visit, travel and terms

Travel time charged at **£30** an hour. Report by post and email.

Firm

TSF Assessments

Independent assessors

Published price

From **£385** by video link

VAT unclear

Visit, travel and terms

Face to face quoted in writing, travel included. Two COP3s from **£550**. Paid in advance. VAT marked as due on some assessments.

Firm

CareDoctors (SocialWorkerGary)

Independent social worker

Published price

From **£425 to £525** for a standard COP3

VAT not stated

Visit, travel and terms

Not stated. Returned within 10 days. A 5-day service for a small extra fee.

Firm

Thornton & Lee

Independent social workers

Published price

£445 for property and finance, or **£445** for personal welfare

plus VAT

Visit, travel and terms

Face to face: 55p a mile. A video COP3 is a fixed **£375** (its Q&A page). Both decisions **£795**. Paid in advance. Extra visits **£85** an hour.

Firm

Jane's Healthcare

Independent assessors, London and wider UK

Published price

£480 for finance or health

VAT not stated

Visit, travel and terms

Not stated.

Firm

COP3.net

Online network of assessors

Published price

£499 fixed, case preparation and report included

VAT not stated

Visit, travel and terms

Remote. The assessment usually lasts about an hour. Report within 72 hours. Urgent or same day from **£899**.

Firm

CoP3 Online

Online assessor

Published price

£500 fixed

VAT not stated

Visit, travel and terms

Online video only. Draft report within 24 hours. Money back if the court does not accept it.

Firm

Mental Capacity Assess

Consultant psychiatrists

Published price

From **£500**

plus VAT

Visit, travel and terms

Remote: no travel charge. In person: mileage quoted in writing. Within 72 hours. Paid in advance. Cancelling inside 48 hours may cost half.

Firm

Plan With Care

Independent social worker, Kent, London and Sussex

Published price

£505 for a COP3 for deputyship

VAT included

Visit, travel and terms

Travel in Kent included. Two assessments at one visit usually **£850**. Complex cases charged by the hour.

Firm

OFH Care

Independent assessors

Published price

£520 by video, **£645** face to face

VAT included

Visit, travel and terms

Travel included where it has assessors. Not stated.

Firm

Private GP Surgery

Private GP, London

Published price

From **£550** for a capacity assessment with the COP3 form

VAT not stated

Visit, travel and terms

Clinic, home or video. Home visits around London. Another line on the same page says from **£400**.

Firm

Nellie Supports

Independent social work practice

Published price

£600 for a single decision

plus VAT

Visit, travel and terms

Usually a home visit, or remote. Travel **£40** an hour. Within 5 working days of the visit. Two decisions: **£1,100** on its COP3 page, **£900** on its prices page.

Firm

Pather Medico-Legal

Medico-legal doctor, South Bucks and Berkshire

Published price

From **£650** for one area

VAT included

Visit, travel and terms

Preparation and travel time included. 60p a mile. Both areas **£1,200**. Form back within 5 days. Paid in full in advance.

Firm

Nova Care Consultants

Independent practice

Published price

£660, travel extra (its booking page)

VAT unclear

Visit, travel and terms

Travel **£30** an hour plus VAT, and 60p a mile plus VAT. Its COP3 page said from **£630** (read 2 October 2026). Its service page says from **£425** plus VAT and travel.

Firm

NMRS Medical Practice

Old-age psychiatrists, Leeds and Harrogate

Published price

From **£750**

VAT not stated

Visit, travel and terms

Not stated.

Firm

Halcyon Doctors

Consultant doctors

Published price

£825 for an uncomplicated deputyship COP3 (its Band I)

plus VAT

Visit, travel and terms

Travel **£150** an hour, at least one hour. Not stated.

Firm

The Wellness Medico-Legal Wing

Medico-legal doctors, London

Published price

From **£950**

plus VAT

Visit, travel and terms

Home or care-home visit inside the M25: **£395** more. Contested reports from **£3,450**. Published by The Online GP, not by the firm itself.

Quote only, no figure published: Gain Capacity Experts and Psychiatry Experts.

GP practices that publish a fee (11)

Practice	COP3 fee, as listed	Date on the list
Francis Grove Surgery	**£71** for the form only. **£118** with an examination. A home visit is **£60** more.	No date on the list
Townfield Doctors Surgery	**£80** without an examination. **£130** with one.	No date on the list
Kepier Medical Practice	**£80** without an examination. **£150** with one (Court of Protection or LPA).	No date on the list
Paxton Medical Group	**£88.90** at the surgery. **£167.80** for a home visit (COP3 or power of attorney).	No date on the list
Church Stretton Medical Practice	**£90** without an examination. **£150** with one.	No date on the list
Frome Medical Practice	**£90** for a COP3 form requested by a solicitor.	No date on the list
Drayton Medical Practice	**£120** without an examination. **£180** with one. Both include VAT.	Fees correct as of 14 October 2024
Danebridge Medical Practice	**£150** without an examination. **£200** with one.	No date on the list

Practice	COP3 fee, as listed	Date on the list
L.L. Medical Care	**£150,** capacity assessment included (COP3 or LPA).	Due for review in April 2024
Saltdean and Rottingdean Medical Practice	**£160** at the surgery. **£240** at home. Not VAT-registered.	Updated June 2026, next review April 2027
Grove House Surgery	**£200** for the assessment. With a report: **£300**. A home visit and report: **£400**.	Effective from September 2023

> **One council's charge.** London Borough of Havering: **£330** a COP3, for Court of Protection applications made by someone else where the council is not a party. It used to be free. This is one council's decision from August 2022; we found no current fee page, and no other council that charges.

The court fees beside it

What	Fee
Application fee: the Court of Protection application the COP3 goes with	**£432**
Hearing fee, only if the court decides the case needs a hearing	**£266**
Assessment fee for a new deputy	**£100**
Supervision of a deputy, general, each year	**£320**
Supervision of a deputy, minimal, each year (some property and affairs deputies managing less than £21,000)	**£35**
Appeal fee	**£272**
The form COP3 itself	**No fee**

Payment comes first

Several independent assessors take payment in full before the appointment. In a property and affairs case you may be able to recover it later; see who pays.

Travel is usually extra

Mileage from 55p to **£1.00** a mile, or travel time at **£30 to £150** an hour, unless the firm says travel is included.

A second decision costs less than double

Two decisions at one visit: from **£550** (TSF, by video) to **£1,200** (Pather, VAT included). Thornton & Lee **£795**; Plan With Care usually **£850**.

Prices move, even on one firm's own site

Nova Care showed three COP3 prices on its own pages; Nellie Supports two prices for a dual decision. So every row carries the date we read it, and the table is re-checked every quarter.

Reference

Time, the court, and who pays

The visit

Independent assessors describe the assessment as taking about an hour. The form asks the assessor to justify a remote assessment: it is allowed if they explain why, and how they supported the person to take part (question 6.10).

Sources: Form COP3, edition 01.24.

The report

Turnarounds published by independent assessors run from a draft in 24 hours to 10 days after the visit. The assessor signs a statement of truth, with a warning that a false statement can lead to proceedings for contempt of court.

Sources: Form COP3, edition 01.24.

Filing it

The COP3 goes to the Court of Protection with your COP1 application; GOV.UK warns the court may not accept an application without it. It must contain current information, so do not leave a long gap between the assessment and applying.

Sources: GOV.UK, form COP3; GOV.UK, apply to be a property and financial affairs deputy; Form COP3, edition 01.24.

When the court wants more

The court may ask for more, such as a report from social services. Under s.49 it can ask the Public Guardian or a Court of Protection Visitor for a report, or require a council or NHS body to arrange one. GP practices are not NHS bodies for this purpose, so they cannot be directly ordered to report (BMA guidance). A hearing is possible, with its own fee.

Sources: GOV.UK, apply to be a property and financial affairs deputy; MCA 2005 s.49; BMA, section 49 guidance (2022); GOV.UK, deputies: fees.

What the court decides

The court checks whether the person needs a deputy or some other kind of help. For a single important decision it can make a one-off order instead; GOV.UK's guide to applying for one lists a COP3 among the forms.

Sources: GOV.UK, become a deputy; GOV.UK, one-off decision: how to apply.

Who pays, and what can be recovered

For a property and affairs application, the court fee can be claimed back from the person's own funds. For a personal welfare application you pay it yourself, unless you are already their deputy or attorney: then you may recover court fees as expenses of your duties.

Sources: GOV.UK, deputies: fees; HMCTS, Court of Protection fees (COP44).

The court's general rule: in property and affairs cases, costs are paid by the person or charged to their estate; in personal welfare cases, no order as to costs.

Sources: Court of Protection Rules 2017, Part 19.

A deputy can be repaid reasonable expenses from the person's property (MCA 2005 s.19(7)).

Sources: MCA 2005 s.19.

No official source we read says the assessor's own fee can be recovered. In a property and affairs case it may be; confirm with the court or a solicitor before you rely on it.

If you get certain benefits or are on a low income, you can apply for help with the court fee (form COP44A). The fee is refunded if the person dies within 5 days of the court receiving the application.

Sources: GOV.UK, one-off decision: how to apply; HMCTS, Court of Protection fees (COP44); GOV.UK, deputies: fees.

Before you apply: routes that may avoid a deputyship

> If the person already has a lasting or enduring power of attorney, GOV.UK says they do not usually need a deputy.
>
> If you only look after their benefits, apply to become an appointee instead.
>
> If they still have capacity, they can make a lasting power of attorney. It is not free: **£92** to register each one, **£184** for both kinds.
>
> For one important decision, the court can make a one-off order. That needs a COP3 too.

Reference

Scotland: no COP3

There is no Court of Protection in Scotland. Never read an England and Wales rule across. The Office of the Public Guardian (Scotland) says most people use a solicitor for guardianship.

Is there a COP3?

No. There is no Court of Protection, no deputy and no COP3. GOV.UK: you cannot apply to be someone's deputy, you can set up a guardianship instead. Guardianship is applied for in the sheriff court, and most people use a solicitor.

Sources: GOV.UK, become a deputy; OPG Scotland, guardianship: how to apply; Scottish Government, AWI forms.

The medical evidence

Two medical reports (form AWI 1), from an examination no more than 30 days before the application is lodged, by at least two medical practitioners. Where the incapacity is by reason of mental disorder, one must be a relevant medical practitioner (a 'section 22' doctor). Plus a third report: from a mental health officer for welfare powers (AWI 2 or AWI 4), or from a person with sufficient knowledge of the adult's finances (AWI 8) for financial powers only.

Sources: AWI (Scotland) Act 2000 s.57; Scottish Government, AWI forms; OPG Scotland, guardianship: how to apply.

How recent it must be

The examination must be no more than 30 days before the application is lodged. The sheriff may accept older reports where circumstances have not changed (s.57(3A) and (3B)).

Sources: AWI (Scotland) Act 2000 s.57; OPG Scotland, guardianship: how to apply.

The legal test

Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 s.1(6): incapable of acting, or of making, communicating, understanding or retaining the memory of decisions, by reason of mental disorder or of inability to communicate because of physical disability. It is not the English test.

Sources: AWI (Scotland) Act 2000 s.1.

Who decides, and the official fees

The sheriff court grants guardianship; the order is registered with the Office of the Public Guardian (Scotland) for **£110,** rising to **£114** on 1 April 2027. We found no official source for the sheriff court's own fee, so we give none.

Sources: OPG Scotland, guardianship fees; SSI 2026/81 (OPG Scotland fees).

A lighter route for simple money

Access to funds, through the Office of the Public Guardian (Scotland), where the adult's affairs are simple and the money is in their sole-name account. One medical certificate from a registered medical practitioner such as a GP; a countersignature from someone who has known you for at least a year; a **£110** fee. Objections within 21 days; if there are none, a certificate of authority within 25 days. The doctor may charge, and that cost can be recouped from the adult's funds in a lump-sum request.

Sources: OPG Scotland, access to funds: applying; OPG Scotland, access to funds: what to know; OPG Scotland, access to funds fees; Scottish Government, access to funds code.

While the person still has capacity

A continuing (financial) or welfare power of attorney. The Act requires a certificate from a practising solicitor or a member of a prescribed class who has interviewed the granter just before they sign; mygov.scot names a

solicitor or a medical practitioner. Registered with the Office of the Public Guardian (Scotland) for **£99,** rising to **£102** on 1 April 2027.

Sources: AWI (Scotland) Act 2000 s.15; mygov.scot, power of attorney; OPG Scotland, power of attorney fees; SSI 2026/81 (OPG Scotland fees).

What a doctor charges

Doctors may charge and set their own fee; no scale is published (Scottish Government carers' guide, 2013). BMA Scotland says certificates for purposes unrelated to medical treatment may attract a fee. One Scottish solicitors' firm estimates the two medical reports at about **£400 to £500** (an undated pricing page).

Sources: Scottish Government, carers' guide (2013); BMA Scotland, AWI toolkit (2025); Kippen Campbell, guardianship pricing.

Changes on the way

The Scottish Government's expert group (6 February 2026) had broad support for replacing the two medical reports with one capacity report from a suitably skilled professional; its April 2026 minutes say models are under development. A proposal, not law: the Act still requires two reports. OPG Scotland's fees change on 1 April 2027.

Sources: AWI reform group, February 2026; AWI reform group, April 2026; SSI 2026/81 (OPG Scotland fees).

Scotland: the official fees

What	Fee	Review
Registering a guardianship order with the Office of the Public Guardian (Scotland)	**£110**	**£114** from 1 April 2027
Applying for access to funds	**£110**	Check after 1 April 2027
Registering a continuing or welfare power of attorney	**£99**	**£102** from 1 April 2027

Northern Ireland: no COP3

There is no deputy and no lasting power of attorney in Northern Ireland yet. A controller is appointed by the Office of Care and Protection.

Is there a COP3?

No. GOV.UK: you can apply to become a controller instead. The High Court's Office of Care and Protection appoints a Controller under Part VIII of the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

Sources: GOV.UK, become a deputy; Dept of Justice NI, Office of Care and Protection.

The medical evidence

One Medical Certificate (form F5), completed by a doctor. It is written for the patient's own treating doctor, the 'Medical attendant', and asks the grounds, how long the disorder has lasted, the prospect of recovery and life expectancy.

Sources: Dept of Justice NI, become a controller; Dept of Justice NI, controller forms.

How recent it must be

No fixed period found in the Office of Care and Protection's guidance.

Sources: Dept of Justice NI, become a controller.

The legal test

For property and affairs, article 97 of the 1986 Order: incapable, by reason of mental disorder, of managing and administering his property and affairs.

Sources: Mental Health (NI) Order 1986 art.97.

Who decides, and the official fees

The Office of Care and Protection: **£326** on the first application (not charged where the patient's clear annual income appears to be under **£1,000**), **£189** on appointment, then **£407** a year (funds managed out of court) or **£570** (funds held by the Court Funds Office). Every Controller must take out a security bond. Short procedure orders exist for smaller estates.

Sources: Dept of Justice NI, become a controller; Dept of Justice NI, Office of Care and Protection.

A lighter route for simple money

Short procedure orders exist for smaller estates. We did not check a benefits-only route for Northern Ireland.

Sources: Dept of Justice NI, Office of Care and Protection.

While the person still has capacity

An enduring power of attorney, for financial matters only; there is no health and welfare power. It is registered with the Office of Care and Protection when the donor becomes incapable: **£189** (form EP2). The Mental Capacity Act (Northern Ireland) 2016's lasting powers and deputies are not in force: legislation.gov.uk marks ss.98, 113 and 116 prospective.

Sources: nidirect, enduring power of attorney; Dept of Justice NI, enduring powers of attorney; MCA (NI) 2016 s.98; MCA (NI) 2016 s.113; MCA (NI) 2016 s.116; Dept of Health NI, Mental Capacity Act.

What a doctor charges

We found no published fee for the F5 certificate. At least one GP practice, in Fermanagh, says legal capacity assessments are outside GPs' NHS duties and does not offer them (30 April 2023).

Sources: Lisnaskea Medical Centre (NI).

Changes on the way

Deputies and lasting powers under the 2016 Act remain prospective (checked 10 October 2026). Until they commence, controllership and the EPA are the routes.

Sources: MCA (NI) 2016 s.113; Dept of Health NI, Mental Capacity Act.

Northern Ireland: the official fees

What	Fee
First application for a controller (not charged where the patient's clear annual income appears to be under **£1,000**)	**£326**
On the appointment of a controller	**£189**
Annual administrative fee, funds managed out of court	**£407**
Annual administrative fee, funds held by the Court Funds Office	**£570**
Registering an enduring power of attorney (form EP2)	**£189**

> **Wales uses the COP3.** The Welsh-language COP3 on GOV.UK is an older 12-page edition. The current form is the English edition 01.24, 21 pages. Social workers in Wales register with Social Care Wales, not Social Work England. The GP contract rule quoted on this page is England's. We did not check Wales's own GP contract regulations.

Reference

Every source, and the web page

This pack rests on 64 official and professional sources: 16 from legislation.gov.uk; 15 from GOV.UK and the judiciary; 12 from Scottish bodies; 7 from Northern Ireland bodies; 14 from the BMA, regulators, a council and GP practices. The prices come from 35 pages that firms and practices publish themselves. Each row names its sources.

The web page links every source, row by row, with the date it was read, and lets you sort the prices and write the letter on screen:

valoren.uk/resources/cop3-capacity-assessment

Fill in the form itself, box by box: **valoren.uk/forms/cop3**

The next step

The COP3 is one form in a longer job. Behind it sit the bank, the GP's records, the benefits, the care bill, the house and the family.

Caring for a Parent is a document pack for adult children with an ageing parent, prepared by a person from your answers. It sets out the Court of Protection route where there is no power of attorney, the bank's team for vulnerable customers, being recorded as their carer at the GP, the benefits families often miss, how care is paid for, and how siblings share the work. It costs **£79**, one-off, and is with you within one business day. It does not complete the COP3: only an assessor can.

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COP3 Request Pack — a free letter, assessor checklist and evidence sheet for a Court of Protection application in England and Wales, with the Scotland and Northern Ireland routes.
Sources read on 3 October 2026; the form and court fees re-checked on 10 October 2026. Not legal or financial advice. © Standard Index Group.