

### Case Study 3

Client was referred by a friend soon after his wife had passed away from cancer aged 58. He had been acting as her carer through the last months of her life and had been receiving carers allowance & income support along with council tax benefit. He quit his job to look after her full time.

He did not now know or was in the right state of mind to have to deal with anything other than sorting the funeral arrangements. He is originally from another part of the country so he doesn't have any family here from his side.

He did not know what implications were on him now he was no longer caring or whether he could apply for any help towards the funeral cost.

Firstly we sat down and discussed the funeral arrangements as this was his first priority. As he was in receipt of income support and carers allowance as the rules state this can continue for a further 8 weeks following the date of death to which he wasn't aware and therefore we could apply for a funeral grant from the DWP social fund team. He could also apply for Bereavement Benefit & the Bereavement payment of £2k as his wife was under pension age when she died. I downloaded these forms and we completed them at the appointment. The bereavement benefit would start after his 8 weeks of income support and carers allowance ceased but the bereavement payment would be paid to him asap. In order to qualify for the funeral grant client would need to make arrangements with a funeral director and then send of the estimate to the DWP.

The funeral grant and the bereavement payment would give him a minimum of £3400 towards the funeral. I discussed the bereavement benefit with him and this would last for 52 weeks from the date of death so this would allow enough time for him to come to terms with everything and look for alternative employment when he felt ready.

I also completed the applications for housing & council tax benefit which he would qualify for with him being on a low income.

He had also not yet been upto informing any of the authorities of his wifes death so I called the DWP bereavement line and reported her death which would only need doing on this one call and then they filter the information through to all the necessary departments.



