

FORENSIC SERVICES – FATAL ACCIDENT CASES

New Business

Self employed photographer in a new business involved in motorcycle accident. Dependency claim based on potential lost profits of the new business and loss of pension based on personal pension and Services pension from previous employment in the Navy.

Employer's liquidation

Dependency claim for loss of earnings and pension complicated by the employer going into liquidation shortly after death. Assessment made of future working life/employment prospects for the deceased and future pension benefits by research of similar employers.

Discovery of trust income

Information technology and languages expert in security service. Killed in car accident. Wife's dependency claim for lost earnings and pension complicated by discovery of an old family trust from which deceased was a beneficiary. Interesting point of law on whether lost interest in trust monies could form part of lost dependency.

Childcare costs

Wife killed by drink driver – main earner with good promotion prospects. Issue in dependency claim was the likely childcare costs and the potential impact on earnings & pension of the wife giving up work. Case further complicated by husband's subsequent loss of employment through illness.

Discovery of pensions

Husband in late 50s killed whilst cycling to work – Dependency claim for loss of earnings to retirement. Of more interest were pension implications as research of earnings history identified a mixture of private, services and state pension losses.

Partnership implications

Husband owned shop in partnership with mother while wife helped in shop for no wages and was mother to their two children. Wife died in car accident. Dependency claim based on lost profits suffered from being forced to sell the business- as cost of replacing wife's input to the business made it unviable. Claim complicated by replacement earnings and also cultural issues.