

Lizzie Iron
Head of Service
Support Through Court
www.thepsu.org.uk



If she'd known then what she knows now, Lizzie might have studied Law, but reading novels for 3 years was more attractive at the time and she ended up with an English Literature degree. After the indulgence of working for Sotheby's, she found herself following the proverbial military flag, which was quite useful for developing adaptability and leadership skills.

As a late-starter in the charity sector, she has combined operational management with policy and influencing roles for The Army Families Federation, Citizens Advice (Welfare Policy Team), and Oxfordshire Family Mediation. She has worked for Support Through Court for over 6 years, during a period when the impact of LASPO has created immense challenges for the civil and family courts, with more citizens having to represent themselves through legal processes, and when the need for support to achieve justice has never been more acute. She also sits as a lay member on the Civil Procedure Rules Committee, and has contributed to the development of the online system for small money claims.

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Support Through Court (formerly The PSU) has offered support services to litigants in person in the family and civil courts since 2001. By 2013, the charity recorded annual contact numbers of c.10,000, and since the cuts to legal aid, the demand has increased by c.10,000 contacts per year: between April 2018 and March 2019, over 700 volunteers supported clients on almost 75,500 occasions across England and South Wales, working to help people represent themselves through the court process. The charity does not offer legal advice and volunteers try to signpost clients to sources of free or affordable advice whenever they can.