



FUNDS IN COURT NEWSLETTER

SUPREME COURT
VICTORIA



To give a better understanding of the Senior Master's Office

JANUARY 2008

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Did you know?

The Senior Master administers funds and assets for over 5000 beneficiaries and is assisted by over 50 staff.

Editor:
Michael Karabogias

Message from the Senior Master

Welcome to our first Newsletter.

Our present intention is that a Newsletter will be sent to you twice a year. Their purpose is to inform you about the Staff of the Funds in Court Office and other events or matters we consider will be of assistance or interesting.

In this Newsletter we are highlighting the **Client Liaison Officers** without whom our capacity to serve you would be so reduced. They are the members of the Office who conduct visits to the beneficiaries, their carers and others to provide that essential personal contact that improves our

knowledge of each other.

There are only five of them and there are more than 5000 beneficiaries, so don't be upset if you haven't had a visit or haven't had one for a long time. Your Trust Officer is always keeping an eye on your situation.

The other highlight is the introduction of **Tony Flynn**, the Senior Trust Officer who has replaced our highly esteemed **Ed Dimech**.

Ed was a dedicated and most effective Trust Officer for more than 30 years and was the first of a long line of top class Trust Officers we have recruited from

State Trustees. He is much missed.

Finally, I would ask you to heed the request to send in your questions and suggestions. The Funds in Court Newsletter will best serve its stated purpose if it reflects the issues which are of most concern to the beneficiaries, their families and carers.

Until next time,

Best Wishes

Kevin Mahony
Senior Master

Who's Who — Client Liaison Officers

By Lee Archer

More than 50 full and part time Officers assist the Senior Master in administering the funds in Court; they work in the following Sections:

- Legal
- Trust
- Client Liaison
- Investments & Office Administration
- Tax & Accounting
- IT

Each issue of the newsletter will introduce some of the Officers who deal directly with beneficiaries. In this edition we will introduce Client Liaison Officers (CLOs).

The CLOs are part of a team of five whose job it is to visit beneficiaries of the Court. Many people receive a visit in the first year that their money is paid into Court, and as needed after this.

The purpose of the

visit is to provide an opportunity for beneficiaries to talk to the Court in a more relaxed and informal setting and for the Court to get to know our beneficiaries a little better by seeing people in their own environment. Having the facility for the Court's 'eyes and ears' to travel out to our beneficiaries is really useful for the Senior Master when it comes to making decisions about how best to provide for our beneficiaries.

The CLOs come from a range of backgrounds, including State Trustees, Centrelink, Community Legal Centres and our Principal CLO was

originally a nurse! Having a variety of experience within the team means that the CLOs are able to assist our beneficiaries by suggesting creative solutions and providing wide-ranging referrals. The CLOs thrive on assisting beneficiaries and like nothing better than to sit down for a 'natter' with our beneficiaries and their families.

If you think that you would like the opportunity to have a visit from the Court, please ask your Trust Officer to make a referral - just make sure you have the kettle boiling for their arrival!

"The CLOs thrive on assisting beneficiaries and like nothing better than to sit down for a 'natter' with our beneficiaries and their families."



Our CLOs:

L-R: Trish Blundell - Principal CLO, Lee Archer, Julie Fredrickson, Elisa Dwyer and Renata Mayne

Who's Who—Tony Flynn, Senior Trust Officer

By Graeme Morris

Tony has taken over the role of Senior Trust Officer previously held by Ed Dimech. Tony took over this position when ill health forced the premature departure of Ed in May 2006.



Ed Dimech

Ed advises that he is much better and working very hard on his recuperation and he wishes to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers. He has previously said that he can think of no one better to take over working with his beneficiaries than Tony.

Tony and Ed have shared similar backgrounds. Tony has worked in trustee related roles for over 30 years. Immediately prior to joining the Office



Tony Flynn

Tony was an administrator at State Trustees and the experience that he gained there in his various roles has been a valuable asset for his present role.

With his quiet nature, his patience,

understanding and experience he is well placed to lead his team in the Trust Section and tackle the heavy workload. His interests include golf, AFL, and horse racing.

Did you know?

The Funds in Court Newsletter is available on the Supreme Court's Website.:

www.supremecourt.vic.gov.au

Information Pamphlets

The Office has produced various information pamphlets explaining some of its services and procedures. These are:

- Payment out at 18
- Buying a motor vehicle
- Buying a property
- Building or modifying a dwelling
- Making a complaint
- Taxation and the funds in Court

The pamphlets, as well as the *SMO Information Booklet* are available by calling the Office on 9603-9390 or on the Web in the Funds in Court area of the Supreme Court's website:

www.supremecourt.vic.gov.au

Important:
It is absolutely necessary that the vehicle is insured before it is driven. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES should anyone drive the vehicle unless it is insured.
The SMO will arrange for the insurance of the vehicle, usually through RACV in Victoria.
NOTE: Once obtained, insurance must be ongoing. If a driver receives a criminal conviction, or the like, this must be disclosed to the insurer. Should the insurer refuse to continue to insure the vehicle, and an alternative insurer can be found, the Senior Master may require the vehicle to be sold.
What else?
A vehicle purchased from the funds in Court remains under the control of the Senior Master. The court will require it to be otherwise disposed of or retained at the prior approval of the Senior Master. The SMO registers a security interest over all motor vehicles from the funds in Court to prevent unauthorized dealings.
The registered and insurance must be kept current. If these payments are to be made to the funds in Court, the vehicle owner - and advice as to any relevant changes such as accidents or driving conditions - must be kept in promptly. If these payments are to be made by you, proof of payment will be required each year.

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Prothonotary and Prothonotary's Office
in Court

INFORMATION PAMPHLET
BUYING A MOTOR VEHICLE

If any of the documents of the property are received of any interest after the purchase, it is required that you immediately advise the SMO. The interest will be advised.
The person has a legal right to be advised of any interest in the property. If the person is not advised, the person is not bound by the interest. If the person is not advised, the person is not bound by the interest. If the person is not advised, the person is not bound by the interest.
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INFORMATION PAMPHLET
BUYING A PROPERTY

Your Questions

Why is it called the Senior Master's Office?

The Senior Master's (Funds in Court) Office is an Office of the Supreme Court of Victoria that deals with funds paid into Court.

It is called the "Senior Master's Office" because the Senior Master of the Supreme Court administers such funds.

The Senior Master is a Judicial Member of the Court.

Why is there a Senior Master?

A Master is a judicial member of the Court who shares its civil judicial work with other Masters and the Judges.

Once there was only one Master who also took responsibility for the Funds in Court.

Then more Masters were appointed and it was

decided that one should have that and other special responsibilities.

The Office of Senior Master was created in 1976.

Why are the people for whom the Senior Master administers funds called beneficiaries?

Funds are paid into Court because the people entitled to those funds are under a legal disability.

The funds are held 'on trust' by the Senior Master for such persons. Lawyers call such persons 'beneficiaries' of the trust.

Send us your questions

Do you have any questions about the functions of, or services provided by, the Senior Master's Office? Send them to us and we will do our best to answer them. Please send your questions to:

Funds in Court Newsletter
c/ Senior Master's (Funds in Court) Office
210 William Street,
Melbourne, VIC, 3000

*In the next edition:
more Who's Who in
the Office*

We need your suggestions

Funds in Court Newsletter welcomes your suggestions. What kind of information would you like to see in future editions? Do you have a story you would like to share? Is there an Office procedure you would like explained. Whatever it is, send your suggestion or contribution to:

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