



'A Normal Life' - Aakesh's Story

Aakesh has been with RWW since 2004 - a young man who was now unable to work following a severe brain Injury as a result of medical negligence.

What he wanted more than anything was to **'be normal again'**. He wanted to maintain his position as head of the household (as eldest son) and keep what limited mobility he had. However, he could no longer manage the stairs in the family home, or even get into the house due to the steps at the front of the property.

Once the solicitors had helped him with successful settlement of a medical negligence claim, his case manager, **Lynn Goodall**, supported him to purchase a property near to other family members and to employ architects and builders to adapt it to meet his needs. Once he had moved in, he settled down, participating in regular therapy and joining in family life. He was very happy.

However, something was missing...

Aakesh didn't want to remain single. His family supported him to find a wife, and Lynn was able to support him to negotiate the immigration process so he could marry and bring his wife back from India. Although Aakesh is a lovely person, he does have some challenging behaviours and poor memory, but his wife adapted to the culture changes and to living with someone with a severe brain injury. He was very happy and maintained his regular routines, exercises and therapies.

However, on a car journey to a regular review, Aakash shared that something was again missing...

They wanted children and it wasn't happening. Lynn supported the couple on the journey that led to IVF and a successful pregnancy.

Family life continued – their daughter grew up and started school. There were a few bumps along the way but things seemed okay.

Then lockdown happened. That was the straw that broke the camel's back on the relationship – and sadly Aakesh's wife moved out just after lockdown and they are now getting a divorce. As you can imagine it is a difficult time – but Lynn is there to support and guide Aakesh through the divorce process, and has got a care package in place so he can maintain his independence in his own home.

Life is looking different again for Aakesh, and will no doubt change again – **life does that**. He is also hampered by the fact that he makes impulsive, potentially life-threatening decisions, has poor memory, cannot manage complex decisions, is vulnerable to influence by others, is very poorly motivated and has difficulty initiating activities.

This journey has involved the case manager and client working together and has necessitated best interest decisions, capacity assessments and safeguarding referrals... and many negotiations with family and client.

The outcome... a normal life of ups and downs... which is exactly what Aakash wanted!