

**News****Mother seeks to end life support for ill daughter**

A woman in her 70s has applied to a judge to give doctors permission to stop her middle-aged daughter's life-support treatment.

Now in her fifties, the daughter has suffered from Huntington's disease for more than 20 years. The inherited condition gradually damages nerve cells in the brain.

The mother said medical evidence showed that her daughter was in the end stages of life and showing no awareness. She added that relatives and doctors agreed that life support should now end.

Mr Justice Peter Jackson, sitting in the Court of Protection, is due to decide what action is in the woman's best interests after analysing the case at a hearing in London on June 22.

He has ruled that the woman, who has grown-up children and is being cared for at a hospital in the Midlands, cannot be identified.

The judge has agreed that the mother can instruct lawyers representing her daughter. Allowing a relative to be a "litigation friend" in such circumstances is rare because independent staff from the Office of the Official Solicitor usually represent those who lack the mental capacity to make decisions.

Yogi Amin, from the solicitors Irwin Mitchell, who is representing the mother, said she had no "interest contrary" to her daughter's. He said the judge had decided that allowing the mother to be a litigation friend would save time and public money.