

If the person left a Will

It will state the deceased's wishes, such as who they have appointed as executors and how they would like their estate distributed. Once you have determined the assets of the deceased it will then be apparent if probate would be needed. Generally if the estate is worth more than about £20,000, then probate is likely to be required. Depending on the size of the estate, probate can be a lengthy process, sometimes taking up to a year or more, but this is unusual and most estates can be finalised more quickly than that.

If the person didn't leave a Will

The law decides who inherits the estate and therefore the wishes of the deceased may not be carried out. Once the assets of the deceased have been determined, we can help you if you need assistance as you may be required to obtain "letters of administration."

Useful links

<https://www.gov.uk/after-a-death/overview>

We can advise and assist you on a wide range of issues:-

- **Agricultural Law**
- **Commercial Property**
- **Wills & Probate**
- **Tax & Trusts**
- **Partnership Matters**
- **Telecom Agreements**
- **Lasting Powers of Attorney**
- **Options & Development**
- **Residential Property**
- **Renewable Energy Schemes**



If you would like further details, please contact us:

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What to do when someone dies

We understand that when someone dies it is a very emotional and difficult time and the official paperwork can be daunting. We are here to help and guide you through the process.



What to do when someone dies

This is a short guide to let you know the basics but should you require further information please do contact us.

Initial steps to be taken when someone dies

- Obtain the **medical certificate of the death** from the GP or hospital
- **Register the death** at your local Registrar of Births & Deaths to obtain a death certificate – it is helpful to obtain several copies of the certificate
- **See if the deceased made a Will** (specific instructions for the funeral may be contained within the Will)
- **Arrange the funeral**

Once the estate has been finalised you yourself might like to think about making a Will.

“Making a Will can make it easier for the people that you leave behind”

Glossary of generally used words and phrases

Administrator Legal representative of the deceased who has died without leaving a valid Will

Assets belongings such as bank accounts, shares, property, personal effects

Beneficiary person who is the recipient of money or other assets as named in a person's Will

Codicil a legal document that amends a Will – it may add or replace terms in the Will without the need for making a new Will

Estate All of an individual's property and possessions

Executor Person appointed in the Will to administer the estate of a person who has died

Grant of Probate is the legal document obtained from the probate court, giving the executor the right to deal with the deceased's assets

Inheritance Tax this may be payable on larger estates. There are various reliefs and exemptions. Anything passing between spouses or civil partners will be exempt

Intestate Person who has died without leaving a valid Will

Letters of administration document obtained from the probate court appointing a person to handle a deceased's estate in the case where no executors have been appointed

Next of kin the closest living blood relation (or spouse or civil partner)

Probate The legal process of administering the estate of a deceased person by resolving all claims and distributing the deceased person's property under the Will

Residuary estate the value of assets left when all tax (if any), debts, funeral expenses and legal and administrative expenses have been paid

Small estates where the total value of the deceased estate is less than £5000

Testator a person who has written and executed (signed) a valid Will that is in effect at the time of their death