



what you need to do when someone dies

The legal implications of a close relative or friend dying can be daunting, especially if you do not have any trusted family or friends to turn to for help or advice. Whatever your circumstance, we will do all we can to provide you with the legal help you need.

When a person dies someone has to deal with their estate. This can mean selling their property or possessions, collecting in all their money, paying any debts and distributing what is left to those entitled.

We can help you handle all these matters, including obtaining a Grant of Probate, handling taxation issues and, even, assisting with funeral arrangements.

We will strive to provide the highest standard of professionalism, courtesy, efficiency and compassion at this difficult time in your life.

At a time of emotional distress, through the loss of a close relative or friend, we offer the support of a comprehensive, flexible and understanding service.

Here is a list of some of the things to be done following a death:-

- A funeral has to be arranged. In most cases the family take care of the funeral arrangements, although we are often asked to help.
- Banks, Building Societies, Insurance Companies, Government Departments and creditors have to be contacted.

- Inheritance Tax and Income Tax may have to be dealt with.
- Property and shares may have to be valued and sold.
- Debts need to be cleared.
- A Grant of Probate may be required.

QA questions & answers >

What is a Grant of Probate?

Probate is the court's authority, given to a person or persons ("the Executors"), to administer a deceased person's estate. A Grant of Probate is the legal document which acts as proof that the Executors have this authority.

Who takes out a Grant of Probate?

If there is a Will, the Executors apply for a Grant of Probate. If there is no Will, relatives of the deceased (the "Administrators") apply for a Grant of Letters of Administration which is the equivalent of the Grant of Probate. Once the grant has been obtained the Executors/Administrators can collect and distribute the assets to those legally entitled.

How long will it all take?

Before we can determine an accurate timescale the value of the assets of the estate has to be established. Times vary according to the nature and assets of the estate, but we will try and give a time estimate at the outset, and you can be assured that our efficient and proactive service will finalise matters as quickly as circumstances permit and if there is any delay we'll tell you why.