

FEES

Standard Probate Service £195

* For net estates over £5,000, a fee of £215 is payable to the Probate Office

OTHER SERVICES

Single Will £65

Joint Wills (per couple) £95

Alterations to wills for existing clients
Single £20
Joint £30

Protective Property Trust (in will) £35

Lasting Power of Attorney £95*

General Power of Attorney £65

*Depending upon your financial circumstances, a fee of £110 may be payable to The Office of the Public Guardian)

HOW WE WORK

Your legal documents are extremely important so we take great care to ensure that they are created accurately and to your satisfaction. We arrange two meetings, the first to discuss your concerns and requirements and the second to deliver your documents and to explain the meaning of each clause. When necessary, we will also act as a witness to

HOW OUR 10 POINT GUARANTEE MAKES US DIFFERENT

- There is a clear pricing structure
- We do not charge at an hourly rate
- There is no VAT charge
- We do not appoint ourselves as executors or attorneys
- We personally deliver your documents
- Appointments are held in your home
- Evening appointments are available
- We explain the document wording
- We review your arrangements yearly
- We do not charge to store documents

Wills at Home

CONTACT US

01271 860105 / 07970 671192

www.wills-at-home.co.uk

wills.athome@yahoo.com

5 West Yelland,
Barnstaple,
Devon, EX31 3EX.

FINALISE THE ESTATE OF A DECEASED PERSON

OBTAIN PROBATE



An introduction to the legalities of dealing with the estate of a deceased person

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INTRODUCTION

When someone dies, they may leave money, possessions and property (known as their estate). In order for a family member, friend or legal representative to finalise and distribute their estate, it is often necessary to apply for a document called a Grant of Representation. This process is commonly known as Probate.

THE PURPOSE OF A GRANT OF REPRESENTATION

A Grant of Representation establishes who can legally collect, sell and distribute a deceased person's estate. The process involves valuing the estate, including a house and contents, and contacting financial organisations.

There are three types of Grant of Representation

Probate

This is issued by the Probate Service to the person or persons named as executors (chosen to administer the estate) in the deceased person's will.

Letters of Administration (with will)

This is issued when no executor is named in the will, or when the executors are unable or unwilling to apply for a grant.

Letters of Administration

This is issued when the deceased person did not make a will, or when the one they have made is not valid.

WHEN A GRANT IS NOT REQUIRED

Not every estate needs a Grant. However, most financial organisations will require a copy of a Grant in order to release funds. A Grant is not required if:

- The home is held in joint names and is passing by survivorship to the other joint owner.
- The bank or building society account is in joint names. In this case, the bank may only ask to see the death certificate in order for the balance to be transferred to the other joint owner.
- The amount held in the account was small. All organisations have their own rules so each will need to be contacted to discover if a Grant is required before releasing assets.

PERSONS ENTITLED TO APPLY FOR PROBATE IF THERE IS A WILL

You can apply for Probate if you are over 18 years old and:

- You are an executor in the will
- You are named in the will to receive some or all of the assets and the executors are unable or unwilling to apply.

PERSONS WHO CAN APPLY FOR PROBATE IF THERE IS NO WILL

The next of kin can apply in the following order of priority:

- Lawful spouse or civil partners.
(unmarried partners cannot apply)
- Sons or daughters
- Parents
- Brothers or sisters
- Uncles or aunts

When more than one person wishes to apply for a Grant, they may make a joint application. A maximum of four applicants are permitted.

INHERITANCE TAX (IHT)

When you apply for a Grant, it is necessary to complete a tax form whether or not inheritance tax is owed. The IHT threshold for 2014/15 is £325,000 although this may be increased to £650,000 if the deceased was a widow(er).

THE NEED TO USE A SOLICITOR TO APPLY FOR PROBATE

It is not usually necessary to employ a solicitor to apply for Probate unless the firm is named as an executor.

ATTENDING A PROBATE INTERVIEW

In normal cases, the only reason for an executor to attend an interview at a Probate office is to prove their identity and swear an oath. However, this formality can be completed at a solicitor's office for a fee of around £7 per person.

OUR STANDARD PROBATE SERVICE FOR ESTATES BELOW IHT THRESHOLD

- Oversee valuation of assets
- Confirm IHT exemption
- Provide and complete Probate and IHT forms
- Forward all relevant forms and documents to Probate Office



Wills at Home

The logo for 'Wills at Home' features the company name in a bold, dark brown serif font. Above the text is a thick, dark brown curved line that starts under the 'W' and ends under the 'e'. Below the text is another thick, dark brown curved line that starts under the 'i' and ends under the 'e', mirroring the shape of the line above.