WHAT TO DO WHEN SOMEONE DIES

PERSONAL LAW

Here when you need us

Stephens® Scown

Everyone has to deal with death at some point. When you are coping with bereavement, the last thing you need is confusion and red tape.

Many people ensure their affairs are in order before their death to spare their loved ones extra stress. However, if someone dies unexpectedly, they may not have got round to preparing a Will, let alone organising their affairs.

Whichever situation you find yourself in, our specialist Private Client team can offer you a range of bespoke services, specifically tailored to meet your needs.

Experience and expertise you can rely on

Our lawyers have significant experience and expertise in dealing with the administration of estates. We understand the intricacies involved and can make the whole process as smooth and straightforward as possible during this difficult time.

By involving us, we can offer a practical and professional service dealing with all aspects of administration, including digital assets and tax implications.

We have saved our clients millions of pounds in inheritance tax by claiming reliefs and using deeds of variation to reduce the tax burden.

Excellent advice and practical help when you need it

Our estate administration services include:

- ***Estate administration*** *- general and specific advice on all aspects of handling the estate and dealing with the administration for you as the executor*
- ***Acting as executors of a client's Will*** *through the firm's partners*
- ***Beneficiaries*** *- advice on your entitlement or on the handling of the administration by the personal representatives*
- ***Trusts*** *- advising trustees on their accounting requirements and on the administration and winding up of a trust on the death of a beneficiary*
- ***Intestacy*** *- advice to personal representatives on their responsibilities, as well as their personal liabilities regarding the estate*
- ***Inheritance tax*** *- reducing the tax burden by using the available reliefs, as well as deeds of variation*
- ***Probate service*** *- for personal representatives who wish to carry out much of the administration themselves, you tell us what is in the estate and we extract the grant of representation in your name, enabling you to deal with the administration*
- ***Accounting service*** *- including the preparation of estate accounts, lifetime income tax and administration taxation*
- ***Will, trust and estates dispute resolution*** *- advice on contentious issues arising out of a Will, the validity of the Will or on difficulties in estate administration*

How can we help?

There are numerous ways you can provide for loved ones after your death. Our vastly experienced Private Client team will provide you with the highest level of service to sensitively guide you through your options.

Preparing for the future
Making a Will is one way of ensuring your wishes are carried out in the future. However, you should also consider the benefits of making a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA).

An LPA is a way of making sure that, if you become incapable of managing your own affairs during your lifetime, your wishes will still be carried out.

It may be that you become ill in the future, suffer an injury or develop a mental condition that leaves you unable to cope. If this happens, an LPA lets you nominate someone – a family member or close friend, for example - to manage your legal, financial and health affairs.
If you don't have an LPA and become unable to manage your own affairs, the Court of Protection will appoint someone to do it on your behalf.

Lasting Powers of Attorney
LPAs are versatile documents, but there are different types and the rules can be confusing. Our Private Client team can talk you through the options to create an LPA that best suits your needs, whether that be a Property and Affairs LPA or a Personal Welfare LPA.

Our vastly experienced team will provide you with the highest level of service

Giving you the knowledge to make better decisions

Good legal advice is about helping you take control of your life, through both planned and unforeseen events. When seeking such important advice, you need to have faith in the knowledge and commitment of your lawyer.

At Stephens Scown, we care about our clients and we work hard to help you achieve your goals. Our people deliver practical, expert advice to help you make informed decisions. This is based on a deep understanding of your needs and a commitment to building long-lasting relationships through the good times and the tough times.

South West heritage, with nationwide coverage

Based in the South West but with a client base that stretches across the UK, our focused and flexible way of working enables us to provide the very best professional legal advice to our clients wherever they are. Independent legal directory Chambers & Partners describes us as a “dominant force” in the marketplace, and we feature in The Lawyer magazine’s prestigious Top 200 law firm rankings.

Members of:

- *The Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP)*
- *Solicitors for the Elderly*
- *Law Society Probate Section*
- *The Court of Protection’s Panel of Deputies (acting as receiver for clients who lack mental capacity)*

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