

# Probate matters...

Providing legal advice of the highest possible standard since 1981



**Probate:** *the act of applying for the right to deal with a deceased person's affairs*

**curry popeck**  
solicitors

The Probate experts

# Welcome to Curry Popeck.....

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At Curry Popeck we understand your Probate requirements. We take great pride in the personal service that we provide to our clients and we appreciate your emotional stress in coping with all of the legal, tax and administrative processes. We have over 30 years of specialist experience in dealing with Probate on behalf of bereaved families and this is reflected in the care and consideration we take during these difficult times.

As a long established law firm, Curry Popeck is small enough to care – but large enough to have all of the necessary legal resources. Our Probate services are only carried out by qualified lawyers, ensuring that you receive a professional and sympathetic service with the minimum of burden to family and other beneficiaries.

We assure you that you will receive a sensitive and professional service when instructing us on your Probate matter because we believe it is “all about the Client...”



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# About Probate.....

**Is it always necessary to apply for Probate? No. Probate need only be applied for when there are:**

- General assets worth more than £5,000
- Stocks or shares
- Certain insurance policies
- Property or land held in the deceased person's own name or held as 'tenants in common' with someone else



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*Dear Mr Popeck,  
I have spoken to my brothers and we are all happy with the way you have handled my late mothers estate and are happy with all the accounts. I would like to thank you personally for all your help in this matter.*

*Regards*

*Philip, Harrow, Middx.*

”

## **Who can apply for Probate?**

Depending upon whether the deceased person leaves a Will or not influences whether a 'grant of probate' or a 'grant of letters of administration' must be applied for. Either the executors of the Will (if there is one) or a close relative may apply, or alternatively a solicitor.

## **How do I apply for Probate?**

Obtaining a grant of probate or letters of administration can be a complex procedure requiring the completion of a number of probate forms, which the probate registry will send onto you. Details of your nearest Probate Registry can be obtained via HM Courts Service



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# About Probate.....

## What does the Probate process involve?

Once you have obtained, completed and returned the various forms to the Probate Registry, they will contact you to arrange for you to visit the registry for an interview with a member of staff from the Probate service called a commissioner. You will have to take proof of identification with you, as well as other paperwork, and at the interview you will be asked to swear an oath.



## If I apply for Probate, what are my responsibilities?

There are numerous factors to deal with when handling Probate, such as advising various government offices like H M Revenue & Customs, the DVLA, the Council Tax department and Pension providers etc. It is also the responsibility of the person dealing with Probate to ensure all financial liabilities such as credit cards, overdrafts and loans are settled from the proceeds of the estate as failure to do so makes that person liable for these personally. In view of the responsibilities placed on the person dealing with Probate, many people choose to engage a solicitor.

## Are there Inheritance Tax implications?

There could be. Inheritance Tax is a complicated area and there are several factors which affect whether this is payable and how much. It is always best to seek the advice of a solicitor in this regard.



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*Thank you very much. As mentioned, I am very happy with your excellent service, and would be happy to recommend you to anyone in the future.*

**Chris, Toronto, Canada.**

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*I want to express my extreme gratitude to you for the work you have done in settling this estate. Whatever it cost it was definitely worth it as I could never have dealt with it all by myself*

**Jill, Edgware, Middx**

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### How long does it take for Probate to be granted?

Once applied for, a Grant of Probate normally comes through in four to six weeks, however, it can take longer depending on the complexity of the estate being dealt with.

“ Thanks very much for all your work. I particularly appreciated your friendly, helpful and efficient manner. If I need any further help in the future I'll be in touch.

Regards

Russell, London N7 ”

### Is it normally advisable to engage the services of a solicitor to deal with Probate?

Yes. Like many legal processes, Probate can be very complicated involving the completion of many different forms and also places certain responsibilities on the individual dealing with a person's estate. Some of the benefits of using a solicitor are:

- **Speed** - it is generally quicker as no interview at the Probate Registry is required when a solicitor is used, which can save a great deal of time and inconvenience
- **Property** - if the deceased person's estate includes a property a solicitor will need to be instructed at some stage and therefore using a solicitor for the probate can assist with the sale of a deceased person's property
- **No Will** - if the deceased person has died without a will (Intestate), having a solicitor to advise on the intestacy rules can be essential
- **Inheritance Tax** - if the deceased person's estate attracts inheritance tax issues, a solicitor may well be able to reduce the amount of inheritance tax payable through a Deed of Variation
- **Contested Probate** - if the will is in dispute, having a solicitor to advise upon procedure is often vital
- **Protection** - a solicitor carries professional indemnity insurance for all work undertaken to protect a client against mistakes that may be made. This helps alleviate any individual concerns an executor may have when undertaking probate personally

# About Probate.....

## **If I instruct Curry Popeck in my Probate matter, do I have to visit your offices?**

It is not mandatory but we will need to obtain proof of your identity as required by law, as well as any relevant documentation relating to the deceased person's estate. You can either take the relevant documents to a local firm of solicitors and ask them to issue you with certified copies which you can post to us or in certain circumstances we can arrange to visit you and deal with the paperwork at your convenience in your home or place of work.



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*Many thanks for your email and many thanks for your thorough and diligent work. Will certainly be using you again if the occasion should arise.*

*Kind regards*

**Tim and Laura, London NW3**

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*I cannot thank you enough for dealing with the estate. Your unfailing diligence and kindness over the last four and a half years made our dealings much more bearable. I expect we will all be breathing sighs of relief when we finally close our respective files!*

*With very best wishes*

**Anna, Oxford**

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## **What do I do now?**

If you would like Curry Popeck to deal with this probate matter for you, simply call or email us at the number or address shown in the contact section of this brochure and we would be happy to discuss your requirements in a professional and sympathetic manner.

# Why use Curry Popeck?

## At Curry Popeck we will:-

- Visit you at home or work to see proof of identification and collect any paperwork
- Provide you with legal advice of the highest standard;
- Discuss all your requirements in detail;
- Explain the law clearly, avoiding unnecessary jargon;
- Provide you with the services of a team of lawyers who are sympathetic to your needs;
- Always keep you informed every step of the way;
- Return your telephone calls promptly;
- Be available whenever you need us;
- Help you overcome any legal problems you may face;
- Be innovative and forward thinking;
- Protect and promote your interests;
- Operate a transparent fee structure; and
- Offer a friendly, efficient and professional service that is "all about the Client...."

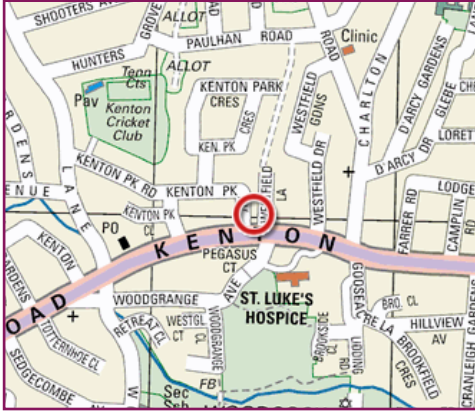


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# Contact Details

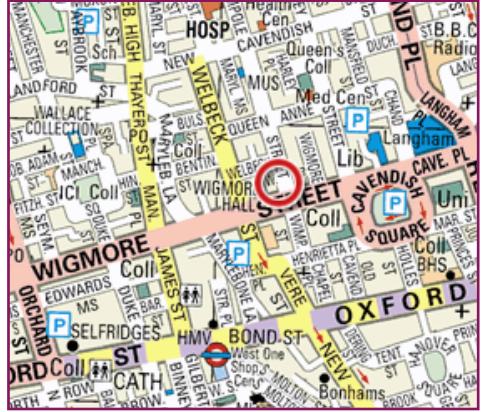
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