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## WHAT IS PROBATE?

When a person dies, their possessions (including money and property) have to be dealt with by whoever is named as executor in their Will. To be able to deal with the estate the executors must apply for a 'Grant of Probate' to get the necessary legal permission.

Most Wills need a Grant of Probate to be obtained, although if the value of the estate is less than £5,000 and doesn't contain any property or shares, you are unlikely to need probate.

Once you have the Grant of Probate (which you can get yourself or through a probate firm), you can choose to carry out the full probate process yourself. This process includes:

- collecting all the assets of the estate
- paying any debts that need to be paid
- distributing the estate to the beneficiaries of the Will in accordance with the Will.

The Government website ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)) has some helpful advice and tips for you to follow to ensure you are doing everything correctly.

If you do not feel comfortable dealing with probate yourself and we understand that it can feel too overwhelming and stressful, especially at such a difficult time, you can appoint someone who is authorised to provide probate services to deal with the matter on your behalf..

Appointing someone to take care of the full probate process for you does not mean that you give up your rights as executor. If you appoint Sherwoods Probate Services Ltd to act for you, we would simply deal with the formalities of the probate application on your behalf.

## NON-CONTENTIOUS PROBATE VS CONTENTIOUS PROBATE

Sherwoods Probate Service Ltd are authorised to carry out non-contentious probate services – i.e. where all the parties involved are working towards the same goal and there is no dispute or disagreement about the Will.

Sherwoods Probate Services Ltd are [authorised non-contentious probate practitioners](#) and we offer a service that is far quicker and more affordable than most of the banks and solicitors provide.

If the Will and probate are contentious – i.e. there is a dispute between parties which often has to go through court proceedings – you will need a solicitor. (We can recommend a firm for you.)