



myerson

Myerson **Personal**

Our guide to obtaining a copy of a will

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Welcome

Although everything we do is ultimately about you, it is important you get to know the team that will be working with you every step of the way.

Our Contentious Trusts and Probate Team are the leading litigation experts in the North, and we don't say that lightly. If you choose to work with us, you will discover exceptionally talented lawyers who have a passion for making a genuine difference to our clients' lives.

Why Myerson?

Our specialist Contentious Trusts and Probate lawyers provide clear advice on disputes over Wills, trusts, and estates.

As a Top 200 UK Law Firm, we are proud to be ranked as '**Top Tier**' in the prestigious international directory **The Legal 500**, and commended by The Times '**Best Law Firms 2023**'. This means you can be certain that you will receive the highest quality legal advice.

Your team of solicitors will provide practical advice and, unlike some other firms, are able to draw on a wide range of specialist support and expertise from other solicitors across our firm, from Real Estate to Private Client and beyond.

Find out more about our **[Contentious Trusts and Probate Team](#)**.



Obtaining a copy of a Will

Wills are usually private documents and they remain private until the Personal Representatives of the Will (the people appointed to deal with the estate) obtain a document called a Grant of Representation. The Grant allows them to administer the estate and deal with assets such as a property.

Once a Grant is obtained, the Will becomes publicly available and can be accessed from the Government's Find a Will website for a small fee (currently £1.50).

A link to the website can be found [here](#).

What information do I need to obtain a copy of a Will?

You will need the following information to obtain a copy of the Will:

- The full name of the Deceased
- Their date of death

When will the Will become publicly available?

It can take several months, depending on the complexity of the estate, to obtain a Grant of Representation.

It is worthwhile frequently checking the Find a Will website to ensure you can obtain a copy of the Will as soon as possible.



Alternatively, you can apply for a standing search to a Probate Registry if you want to be notified when the Grant of Representation is available.

What is a standing search?

A standing search lasts for six months and is a request for a copy of the Will and any Grant of Representation to be sent to you when it is available.

It is important that the information included in a standing search is correct for it to be effective.

You can also apply to renew a standing search if the six-month lifetime has passed.

Obtaining a copy of the Will before a Grant

You may wish to see a copy of the Will before a Grant is issued if you have concerns about the Will and its potential contents or if you want to find out if you have been left anything.

Before the Grant is issued, only the Personal Representatives of a Will are entitled to see it. They may choose to share a copy of the Will with beneficiaries but are not required to do so.

If a solicitor, legal probate service or bank is storing the Will, they cannot show it to you without permission of the Personal Representative(s). They can, however, tell you who the Personal Representatives are. There are various steps you can take to try to get a copy of the Will.

These include:

Speak to the personal representative

Personal Representatives are the people who have responsibility of dealing with the estate administration and will likely be in possession of the Will. If you are on good terms with them, it is recommended that you first approach them and make enquiries.



If you do not feel comfortable doing this yourself, you can ask a friend or family member to speak to them on your behalf.

Conduct a Certainty Search

If the Personal Representatives are not willing to provide you with a copy when enquiring, you may wish to make a search via Certainty.

Certainty is an organisation which can make enquiries with local solicitors to ascertain whether a Will was prepared. Further information about Certainty can be found on their website together with details of their fees.

Instruct a solicitor to write to the Personal Representative to ask for a copy of the Will

If you are unable to obtain a copy of a Will using the above methods, solicitors can assist by writing to the Personal Representative to request a copy of the Will on your behalf.

Something to be aware of, however, is that Personal Representatives do not need to comply with this request so it may not lead to a copy of the Will being provided. Sometimes the Personal Representative is more willing to engage with a solicitor though.



You're in safe hands!

If you would like further information about how we can help you with **Obtaining a Will** or have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact a member of our **Contentious Probate Team** today.

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