
The information on these pages is only provided for general guidance. If you do have a legal problem you must ensure that you obtain individual independent legal advice to protect your interests and rights

When someone dies

The first step is to register the death and arrange the funeral.

Sometimes in a person's will they state what they would like to happen (i.e. burial or cremation). It is important to note that this is not binding and only a wish on behalf of the deceased.

On the whole the family will arrange the funeral but if there is any dispute then it is the person's executors who have the final say on what should happen.

The other main task is to secure any property. So ensure that the house is locked and that any valuables they may have are moved to a safe place, so that unwanted visitors do not have the opportunity to remove them

What the Solicitor will do

Usually after the funeral it is then the time to come and see a solicitor to begin sorting out the affairs of the deceased. In order to assist the solicitor you should bring along as much information as you can. This would include details of all bank and building society accounts, stocks and shares, investments or bonds, premium bonds, life insurance policies, pensions and details of personal belongings as well.

You will also need details of any liabilities, so any credit cards, hire purchase agreements, or just any outstanding bills.

If there is a property the home and contents insurance will also be required by the solicitor.

Finally you will need to bring in the death certificate, and if you have it the original will and any deeds you have.

The solicitor will then go through the items you have brought in and explain how the estate will be administered, answer any questions you may have and give you an idea of the costs and timescale involved