

Your Legal Questions

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Q Who should I appoint as Executor?

A The Executor's job is to collect together everything that the person who has died used to own (the estate), to pay all debts and then transfer the assets to the beneficiaries.

Careful consideration should be given to the abilities and availability of those you have in mind. If the estate is straightforward you may wish to rely upon a sensible friend or relative. If your estate is more complex you may wish to appoint a professional either to assist your friend or family member or as an alternative.

Many people are put off from appointing professionals fearing that the cost will be excessive. No fee is payable during your lifetime to appoint a Solicitor as your Executor. The fees, which must be reasonable and are subject to scrutiny by the Law Society, will be paid from your estate. Solicitors will usually do their best to estimate the costs in advance.

Where solicitors are appointed as Executors the following benefits will arise:

- **Continuity** Unlike an individual Executor there is no risk that a Solicitors firm will die before you or be unable to do the job.
- **Competence** Solicitors firms have the professional expertise and experience to deal with any complex issues that may arise.
- **Personal and Impartial** Solicitors are able to combine a concern for the interests of the beneficiaries coupled with fairness in the event of a dispute
- **Speed** with their knowledge and experience of the work required Solicitors are usually able to deal with matters more promptly.
- **Comprehensive service** The majority of Solicitors firms can provide a comprehensive service for example recovering debts due to the estate and attending to any conveyancing required.

If in doubt consult a solicitor.

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