



## Article: 'In your hour of need'

'Losing a relative or close friend is hard and can be difficult emotionally, even before you start thinking about how to deal with your loved one's Will and financial affairs. The last thing anyone wants in their grief is to worry about forms and the legalities of death,' says Sheila Glyn-Owen, solicitor in the Wills and Probate team at Phillips 'and that's why it's important to get some professional help straightaway. Probate is the process of sorting out the 'estate' of someone who has died, so that there is someone legally entitled to deal with the deceased's affairs. It's easy to be confused by all the legal terms and procedural matters, so if you're one of those people who have never been involved in doing this before, here are a few practical tips:

- Get the Medical Certificate from the Doctor
- Register the death with the Registrar of Births and Deaths
- Tell family members, friends and any employer
- Find the Will if there is one
- Engage a funeral director
- Ask a trusted solicitor to help you deal with the administration of the estate. Having someone you trust, someone who specialises in probate issues all the time can bring enormous relief and will help to make your life that bit easier, leaving you and the family to cope with your grief

Finally,' says Sheila 'if a family dispute erupts because someone disagrees with how the assets are distributed, our experts at Phillips we can assist. So whether you need some straightforward advice on what steps to take next or you would like someone to deal with the estate on your behalf, call me or Ben Holden on 01256 460830. We're here to help.'

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