

Probate Jargon buster

Beneficiaries – A person or institution who inherits from a Will or under intestacy laws

Codicil - A legal document that is often used to make minor changes to a Will but has same formalities regarding signing to be valid

Grant, fully known as a Grant of Representation – An order from a court which confirms or confers the authority of the "personal representative") to administer the estate of the deceased person

Grant of Probate – When there is a Will which successfully appoints executors

A Grant of Letters of Administration with Will annexed - This is issued when there is a Will, but either there is no executor named in the Will or all the named executors are unable or unwilling to act as executors

A Grant of Letters of Administration – When there is no Will

Intestate – When someone dies without making a Will

Legacy – A gift included in a Will

Personal representative – Person who gets the grant and administers the estate

Executors – Appointed by the Will

Administrators – When there is no Will, the persons who obtain a Grant of Letters of Administration are known as administrators and must establish their entitlement to apply for a Grant. There is a strict order of precedence as to who is entitled to apply for Letters of Administration (i.e. Spouse, Civil Partner, Children, Parents, siblings

Probate registry - Government office that deals with Probate and Administration with principle office in London and regional district registries

Residue / residuary estate – What is left after the money legacies, specific gifts, funeral expenses, Inheritance Tax, and all other liabilities and expenses