



# *Our Guide To Finding The Best Probate Solicitor*



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Losing a loved one is undoubtedly a challenging and emotional time, so the last thing anyone wants to think about is finding a probate solicitor.

However, amidst grief and sorrow, the legal process of probate adds another layer of complexity. Executors and beneficiaries of wills, as well as the family of the recently deceased, may find themselves facing the daunting task of navigating through the probate process. To ease this burden, it is crucial to find the best probate solicitor as early as possible in the process who can provide the necessary legal expertise and guidance.

In this eBook, we explore the importance of choosing the right probate solicitor and highlight key factors to consider in your search.

# What is probate?

The majority of people may not be familiar with what probate is until they find themselves called upon, be it as an executor or beneficiary of an estate. The simplest explanation of probate is the legal process that verifies the validity of a will and facilitates the distribution of assets left behind by a deceased person. It involves gathering the deceased's assets, paying off any outstanding debts or taxes, and distributing the remaining assets to the rightful beneficiaries.

A probate solicitor plays a vital role in overseeing this process, ensuring that all legal requirements are met and guiding the executor or administrator throughout the proceedings.



## Why finding the best probate solicitor matters

The probate process can be extremely complex, not to mention time-consuming, and even the most straightforward of estates can throw some potential challenges into the mix. From locating assets and determining their value to managing complex financial matters and handling disputes, the expertise of a seasoned probate solicitor becomes invaluable.

Furthermore, a probate case can prove to be even more complicated when there is no will in place. In fact, according to the 2021 Annual Court Report, the number of probate grants issued for estates with no will, known as intestacies, rose from 2,868 in 2020 to 3,113 in 2021.

And of course, at a time when emotions and stress levels are at an all-time high, it can be difficult to make sense of the legalities of the process. So by engaging the services of a reputable probate solicitor, you can navigate through the complexities with confidence, ensuring that all legal obligations are met and potential obstacles are overcome. Their experience and knowledge can streamline the process and alleviate the burden on your shoulders.





## Factors to consider when choosing a probate solicitor

**Expertise and specialisation:** Look for a solicitor who specialises in probate and estate administration. Their in-depth understanding of the legal complexities involved in the process will ensure a smooth and efficient resolution. And the law is always changing, so it's important to choose a solicitor who is keeping abreast of any updates in the field of probate law.

**Reputation and track record:** Reputation is crucial when it comes to choosing a solicitor, so take the time to do some research. Seek recommendations from friends, family, or professionals who have previously worked with them. A solid track record of successful probate cases is a good indicator of their competence.

**Client reviews and testimonials:** Read reviews and testimonials from past clients to gauge the solicitor's professionalism, communication skills, and client satisfaction levels. Their experiences can provide valuable insights into the solicitor's approach and service quality. Platforms such as Trustpilot or Google My Business are great resources for providing client testimonials.

**Transparency and communication:** Particularly for anyone going through the probate process for the first time, trying to comprehend the legal jargon can be an added stress. Finding a solicitor who engages in clear and transparent communication is crucial when dealing with sensitive matters like probate. Choose a solicitor who is responsive, attentive, and maintains open lines of communication throughout the process.

**Cost and fee structure:** While the cost should not be the sole determining factor, it is essential to understand the solicitor's fee structure upfront. Seek clarity on how fees are calculated and whether there are any additional costs involved so there are no nasty surprises when it comes to receiving the bill. As with most services, shopping around is always a good idea. Consider obtaining multiple quotes and comparing them to make an informed decision.



## Making the final decision

When it comes to selecting the best probate solicitor for your needs, prioritise your preferences and requirements. Consider scheduling consultations or initial meetings with shortlisted solicitors to discuss your case in detail, assess their approach, and determine whether they are the right fit for you. Remember, the probate process can take a long time, so you need to be sure that you are choosing a probate solicitor who will work with you in maintaining a solid solicitor/client relationship.



## Talk to our expert probate team here at Summit Law

The probate process can be hugely stressful and time-consuming. Therefore it's crucial to have the right probate solicitor on your side to help you navigate the complexities of this process with ease.

By considering all the factors mentioned above such as expertise, reputation, client reviews, communication, and cost, you can make an informed decision when choosing a probate solicitor.

At Summit Law, we understand the emotional and logistical challenges you may be facing in dealing with the estate of a deceased loved one. Our dedicated team of probate solicitors is here to guide you through every step of the probate process. We are committed to providing empathetic and reliable legal support during these difficult times.

Get in touch with Summit Law today at [cillin@slaw.ie](mailto:cillin@slaw.ie) or call **01 223 4910** to learn more about our probate services and how we can assist you.



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