

CONTENTIOUS PROBATE

WITH YOU IN YOUR DARKEST HOUR



harrison clark
rickerbys
SOLICITORS



A PASSION FOR PEOPLE

Our passion for people is at the heart of everything we do. It's the engine that keeps us ticking and inspires us to do our best. We're not satisfied unless we're making a real difference to peoples' lives, and we'll keep working hard to ensure we get the best outcome possible.

When someone dies, the last thing you need is an argument or family feud. But sometimes, for many different reasons, this is what happens. If you find yourself in this position, perhaps where you feel you've been treated unfairly as a beneficiary, or you're concerned about how a loved one's estate is being managed, we'll provide practical, sound advice that helps you move forward.

Not only do we understand all the legal aspects of probate, we understand the emotional aspects. People come to us with a range of motivations, so the first thing we do is talk to you about what you feel the ideal outcome would be. For many, it's about making sure the deceased's wishes are carried out as they would have wanted. For us, it's about making sure the solution is right for you.

**WE'RE
LISTENING**





WHAT YOU DESERVE

If a loved one dies without a will, you'll be faced with handling a range of practical issues at a time of high emotion. You'll need to make sure you are provided for both in the short and long-term. You can trust us to help and advise, making sure that if you're entitled to inherit, you do so.

If you feel that your share of a will is unfair, for example if it's less than you were expecting or you have been excluded, talk to us about your options. We understand that disputing a will can cause huge and long-lasting family arguments, so we'll approach your case with care and compassion. We will be your rock in a time of trouble.

CASE STUDY

An elderly gentleman had changed his will to leave everything to his new girlfriend completely excluding his children from his will. This created a huge will dispute between the children and the new girlfriend, who commenced a claim for maintenance against their father's estate in response to their claim that she had unduly influenced him to make a new will.

In these circumstances, a good lawyer is able to help resolve the dispute so that everyone receives some inheritance and the entire estate is not spent on legal fees.

TAKE ACTION

Perhaps you feel someone has influenced your loved one into changing their will, or you are not sure that they were really capable of understanding the changes they were making. If you have doubts about how a will was made or changed, we can help you to challenge its validity.

Similarly if you believe that someone with power of attorney over a loved one's affairs is misusing that power, you must take action.

We can also help to remove executors, for example if they are refusing to administer the estate, or settle disputes between all parties involved.



ON YOUR
SIDE





When you're ready to talk, get in touch and we'll arrange to meet. It's important to bring any documents, such as any copies of the will, with you. We'll want to know what is upsetting you and causing the issues, what the background is and what you're hoping to achieve. We'll ask you about the other people involved and seek to understand their position – whether they have appointed a lawyer yet, and what has been communicated. We'll follow this up with a letter of advice outlining your options and how we can help.

At this point, if we can and it's appropriate to do so, we may be able to stop the administration of the estate so we can pause, and start to resolve the issues that are concerning you.

We're experts in dispute resolution. We'll fight your corner and always keep you updated on what the courses of action are and how we think you should proceed. If we need to go to mediation, we will use our specialist skills to work through the disagreements.

In rare occasions we may have to take your case to court – we hope it doesn't come to that, and in fact nearly all the contentious probate cases we work on are settled outside of court. If court is the only option left, we'll weigh up the cost and likely outcomes of your circumstances and talk to you about the best way forward.

**WE'RE IN YOUR
CORNER**

TALK TO US

It can take between six months and two years to resolve a dispute around a will or trust, or take action if something's gone wrong following a death. We will always be open and up front about our fees and charges.

Beth King-Smith
Partner, Head of Disputed Wills,
Trusts and Estates

T: 01905 744 842

M: 07384 119 523

E: bkingsmith@hcrlaw.com



Talk to us

If you would like to know more about our services or how we could support you, please call us for an informal, no-obligation chat.

Beth King-Smith

Partner, Head of Disputed Wills, Trusts and Estates

01905 744 842 | 07384 119 523

bkingsmith@hcrlaw.com

Birmingham

63 Church Street
Birmingham
B3 2DP

Cambridge

Compass House
Chivers Way
Histon
Cambridge
CB24 9AD

Cheltenham

Ellenborough
House
Wellington
Street
Cheltenham
GL50 1YD

Hereford

Thorpe House
29 Broad Street
Hereford
HR4 9AR

London

3 St Helen's
Place
London
EC3A 6AB

Thames Valley

100 Longwater
Avenue
Green Park
Reading
Berkshire
RG2 6GP

Worcester

5 Deansway
Worcester
WR1 2JG

Wye Valley

Overross House
Ross Park
Ross-On-Wye
HR9 7US