

## The challenges of probate genealogy

Family values have changed so much over the years, people move more often and rates of single living, 2nd marriages, couples with children from previous marriages and divorce for the over 50s are the highest they have ever been. The instances of wills being re-written after a partner has passed away and where there are children from different former marriages have increasingly led to risks of inheritance not ending up where initially intended. These are just some of the many reasons why the correct administration of an estate has never been more challenging

Locating missing beneficiaries named in a Will or identifying entitled relatives in the case of an intestate estate can be a time consuming task for the probate practitioner and those conducting their own research or trusting research carried out by family of the deceased leave themselves exposed to a multitude of potential problems.

We live in a culture of disjointed and extended families. Relatives can be scattered across the country and, in an increasing number of cases, across the globe. There is an ever increasing chance of family members “flying under the radar”, losing contact with close family or old friends. Relatives who produce family trees, whilst perhaps amateur genealogists with a keen interest in their family history, are sometimes prone to errors. Instructing a professional probate genealogist who can cross-reference many data sources and provide evidence, can often uncover a hidden family history. They have an objective view without judgement and they discover the facts without the emotion that a relative or friend of the deceased will often experience.

Whilst information from a close relative or family member regarding the deceased can be a useful starting point, one simple mistake can cause investigations to veer down a completely wrong path, wasting valuable time, money and more crucially causing the estate to be incorrectly distributed.

The role of the Executor or Personal Representative, comes with a great deal of responsibility. Failure to properly administer assets and estates to all entitled beneficiaries carries the risk of legal action. This would be the case where it has not been possible to ascertain the whereabouts of, or properly identify, certain beneficiaries. An excluded entitled beneficiary could look to the Executor or Personal Representative as a source of recompense.

## 'Heirtrace' solutions from Accurate Data Services

Our approach to tracing missing beneficiaries is totally flexible. We believe in resolving every case with a positive outcome, no matter how complex or sensitive the issues may be. Efficiency is important and accuracy is vital

Each case is unique and deserves a dedicated researcher who will manage the matter in a professional and transparent manner from beginning to end, keeping you updated on progress along the way.

We are always happy to provide a free, no obligation assessment of your case. We believe in working closely with our clients and delivering the highest service possible. A company ethos that runs deep in the bloodline at Accurate Data Services.

The increasing amount of 'Heir Hunters' trawling the Treasury Solicitors list and increased public awareness of this, sometimes ruthless profession, can make people sceptical when approached regarding the administration of an estate. Heir hunting is NOT professional probate genealogy

Our 'Heirtrace' Solution' is recognised by our clients for 'leaving no stone unturned'.

Missing beneficiary insurance has a role to play in in estate administration but should never be considered as an alternative to quality research. In fact the availability of insurance often depends greatly on the research that has been conducted and good quality research will often reduce insurance premiums.

### Accurate Data Services specialise in:

- Verifying family trees.
- Tracing missing beneficiaries.
- Identifying and documenting entire family trees.
- Provision of death, birth and marriage certificates and probate documentation.

Next time you need genealogical research, get in touch and we will advise you of the best steps the resolve your case efficiently and cost effectively.

Contact us on **01603 813366**

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Visit our website at **www.accuratedata.co.uk**