

Probate – why use Russell-Cooke?

Russell-Cooke has been in practice for over 125 years and is listed in the Legal 100 as one of the leading firms in the country

- Russell-Cooke has over one hundred lawyers expert in their individual fields, with over fifteen specialising in Private client work alone. Our offices are in Putney, Kingston and central London but clients from all over the country instruct us because of our proven expertise
- Russell-Cooke Trust Company can act as Executor or Trustee. As the Trust Company is neutral and without a beneficial interest this can be an advantage, especially if a dispute arises
- If a dispute arises Russell-Cooke has a contentious probate team which can handle such matters and is rated in the Chambers Directory. It is often instructed by smaller firms who do not have this expertise
- Russell-Cooke is skilled in dealing with multi-jurisdictional estates and has a team of French lawyers expert in dealing with French property and succession issues
- Russell-Cooke only charges for the work actually done. Banks and companies offering funeral and probate services usually charge a fixed percentage regardless of what work they actually do. Typically working on an hourly rate, our fees work out at between 1% and 1.5% whereas banks frequently charge between 2.5% and 4.5% or more if issues become complicated. In addition, they cannot deal with the more complicated estates as usually the work is carried out by staff with no formal legal qualifications
- If you instruct a bank you may still need to instruct a solicitor to deal with some aspects of the administration such as selling a property
- Some banks insist on acting through a power of attorney so that they alone make all the key decisions such as the sale price of a property or when to make interim distributions. Russell-Cooke is happy to act for the Executors appointed in the Will letting the Executors make the key decisions. If the Executors, however, want to hand the entire administration over to Russell-Cooke Trust Company for peace of mind then

they can do so

- Russell-Cooke is regulated by the Solicitors Regulatory Authority. In the unlikely event that executors have a complaint about our fees they have the right to have them assessed by the SRA. This option is only available to executors who appoint solicitors, other organisations may be completely unregulated.
- Russell-Cooke often advises generations of the same family and can offer tax saving advice.

If you have any questions on our probate services, or on any other services offered by Russell-Cooke, please contact the persons listed below

For more information please contact:

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