

A PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE TO

Probate

7th Edition

Keith Biggs
Jonathan Golding



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A Practitioner's Guide to Probate

by

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Preface

The first edition of this book, under the title *Probate Practice and Procedure*, was published in 1980 by Fourmat Publishing.

The intervening editions have all sought to provide easily accessible information and guidance on probate practice and procedure. This, the seventh edition – albeit under a new title – follows the tradition of previous editions.

The Review of the Delivery of Probate Services has now passed through its consultancy period. The effect that this will have is yet to be determined but may not be for some time to come.

Finance Acts are fully covered. The effect of the Inheritance Tax (Delivery of Accounts) Regulations 2002 are also dealt with.

References in the text to Rules are to the Non-Contentious Probate Rules 1987. References to statutes are set out in full except in Chapter 12, where abbreviations are used; for example ‘FA’ refers to a Finance Act and inheritance tax is shortened to ‘IHT’.

Generally, the jurisdiction of District Judges and Registrars in both the Principal and the District Probate Registries is the same; where, however, their powers vary and, for instance, an application may be made to the Principal Registry only, this is explained in the text.

Precedents for all forms required for the procedures set out in the text are contained in Appendix 1. This edition contains several new precedent forms. The fees payable in non-contentious matters, extracted from the Non-Contentious Probate Fees Order 1999, are set out in Appendix 2. The District Registries and Sub-Registries, and their telephone numbers, are given in Appendix 3. A pre-grant application checklist is included as Appendix 4.

The authors again thank practitioners and colleagues who have made helpful suggestions for the improvement of the book. Their considered advice has, where appropriate, been incorporated into the text. The authors also wish to thank the publishers and especially the editor Alan Radford for his considerable effort in producing this edition.

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