

Why searching for A WILL prior to a funeral is IMPERATIVE

The National Will Register has been working in partnership with the National Association of Funeral Directors for 10 years, providing a Will Search service that checks whether a Will exists that contains funeral wishes of the deceased.

The National Will Register has existed to reduce the emotional and financial risk for the bereaved dealing with the deceased's funeral and estate by removing uncertainty as to whether a Will exists or where the last Will of the deceased is stored for the purpose of both funeral wishes and probate. A Certainty Will Search identifies where a Will is held and, once disclosed, can reveal such wishes the deceased had left and identify the named executors of the estate who are, therefore, responsible for probate.

If the deceased had written a Will, performing a Will search on behalf of

the family organising the funeral allows the deceased's estate to easily locate a Will that has either been registered on The National Will Register and also for a Will that has not yet been registered. A Certainty Will Search identifies the named executors and beneficiaries and identifies any funeral wishes contained within the Will. This provides peace of mind to the family surrounding the existence of a Will and reduces the emotional and financial stress a bereavement brings.

A spokesperson for the National Will Register commented: "A recently conducted survey revealed that 95% of

bereaved persons found it emotionally distressing searching the deceased's property whilst looking for a Will. Of those who found a Will during the property search, 87% were unsure if they had actually found the very last Will. We understand that this is an extremely difficult and challenging time for the bereaved so the family and loved ones of the deceased find it very comforting to know that our service exists by offering the ability to search for a Will on their behalf. There is nothing worse than family distributing the estate some time after the funeral only for their solicitor to conduct a Certainty Will Search to find out that the Will contained funeral wishes that they did not uphold. This is why funeral directors use a Certainty Will Search to ensure that, if funeral wishes are written into the Will, they are found and acted upon. Although not every Will located contains these wishes, a Will search still has many benefits to both the family and funeral directors, such as identifying those responsible for the estate."

The National Will Register is The Law Society's provider of a National Will Register. It has over 8.7 million Wills currently in the system (circa 60% of all Wills written in the UK).

A Certainty Will Search is a chargeable cost to the funeral of either £38+vat to check just the register or £95+vat to check the register and search nationally for a Will if it is not registered.

To perform a Certainty Will search, visit www.nationalwillregister.co.uk

