

## ADDITIONAL SERVICES

There are many reasons why you might need a lawyer after your loved one passes away. If the loved one appoints you as their executor you will likely need notarially certified copies of their will and Death Certificate. Financial institutions, government agencies and other organizations often request notarially certified copies of documents in order to transmit jointly owned assets like real estate, personal bank accounts, mutual funds, GICs and investment accounts outside of registered investments. Similarly, institutions that hold registered investments like RRSPs, RRIFs, life insurance products, pension plans and tax-free savings accounts also request that documentation in order to transfer beneficially designated products. Some lawyers, usually Solicitors, specialize in estate planning and should be consulted to help in minimizing legal grief when dealing with personal grief.

## WILL I NEED TO OBTAIN PROBATE?

Probate is the process that proves a will is valid under B.C. law.

Everything that the deceased owned at the time of their death becomes Estate assets. In most circumstances, this does not include jointly held property, jointly held bank accounts, or accounts that name a specific beneficiary.

If a will needs to be probated or not depends on the requirements of the financial institutions where Estate assets are held. Probate is required if the Estate holds real property.

We can help you determine if Probate is necessary.



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## VISION STATEMENT

It is our firm's primary objective to provide high quality legal service in a time and cost effective manner.



**REBECCA DOMOVITCH, BA, JD**  
LAWYER / NOTARY

**Probate**  
**Letters of Administration**  
**Executor Services**  
**Commiteeship**



**LYLE D. CARLSTROM, BA, LLB**  
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BARRISTER / SOLICITOR / NOTARY

## PROBATE

Probate is the solemn proof of a will. Given the complexity of the legal process, many executors seek the assistance of lawyers, experienced in the process. Working with the personal representative and Estate accountant, our team of paralegals and solicitors guide the deceased's family through the Executors year and beyond. We try to take the legal grief out of personal grief.

## LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

Many people die in British Columbia without a Will. Family that are close to the deceased can apply for Letters of Administration in that circumstance to ensure the Estate is administered in accordance with the B.C. Law.

## EXECUTOR SERVICES

Your executor is responsible for administering your estate, arranging your funeral, proving the Will, liquidating the estate, paying debts, distributing assets (as the Will directs) and many other duties.

It is important that your executor be able to keep proper records and be available for an extended period of time to administer your estate. Be sure to discuss this responsibility with your potential executor prior to appointing them.

## INITIAL STEPS

- 1 Gather information and safeguard Estate Property. Involve lawyer and memorial director.
- 2 Administer the Estate. Involve lawyer, memorial director, chartered professional accountant.
- 3 Distribute the Estate. Involve lawyer, estate accountant, realtor.

## TESTIMONIAL

"I wanted to send this email for two reasons - first, to let you know how much we appreciated the way you dealt with mom and dad. When we first came in to see you, it was obvious that dad's health was rapidly failing. Even the idea of going to see a lawyer for wills, POA's and rep agreements seemed morbid. We had always put it off and were worried how dad would perceive it - we wanted him to stay positive and keep working with the doctors who were trying to optimize his medications. He spoke about the appointment with you like he would have after meeting a new friend, and that is what he considered you to be. We were so happy.

Then, when we brought mom in after he had passed, it meant so much that you had a card for her and spoke to her so kindly. We were all helped at that appointment by seeing that she was able to handle it emotionally.

Thanks again for all of your help. "

Sincerely,  
Gail de Jager