



FRASER  FRASER

GENEALOGISTS AND INTERNATIONAL PROBATE RESEARCHERS

It is quick, it's free, and there is cost-and time-saving benefit.

As a firm of genealogists and international probate researchers, we truly understand the sensitivity that needs to be applied to issues such as tracing next-of-kin.

From the outset, we provide clarity regarding the process and costs involved, while at the same time providing you with the added security that all your information is handled with strict confidentiality.

Our reliable results are built upon comprehensive experience, having worked with the Public Sector since 1971.

Why use Fraser and Fraser?

- We provide **clarity** on the processes and related costs involved with no hidden extras
- Achieve a resolution that is beneficial to all parties in a sensitive manner so there is a cost-and time-saving benefit
- Where required, assist in the process to **recover funeral costs** from the estate value



We support all Public Sector departments that require assistance with tracing next-of-kin via a number of services, including > >

- Environmental Health
- Empty Homes
- Bereavement and Funeral Services
- Client Affairs
- Cemeteries & Crematoria Offices
- Social and Adult Services Client Relations
- Appointee and Deputyship
- Client Finance

CONTACT
US TO
LEARN MORE

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This FREE service also has cost-and time-saving benefit

IT'S QUICKER
IT'S EASIER
AND IT'S
STRESS FREE

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FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW WE CAN HELP, CHECK OUT OUR INFOGRAPHIC BELOW.

We understand the steps required in arranging a public funeral.

By referring your case to us, we can trace next-of-kin at no extra cost to the Local Authority. There is also a cost and time saving benefit to you.

We'll start searching immediately. If we are able to make an agreement with the next-of-kin, and therefore have authority to handle the estate, we can then take the rest of your responsibilities off your hands.

We located **6,192** heirs on **975** different cases in 2015

We corresponded with **10,428** different heirs in 2015 in **63** different countries

In the last 5 years we have corresponded with **30,835** heirs in **82** different countries

- 1** Relatives need to be traced
We can trace next-of-kin for you. Once the Local Authority or family has arranged the funeral, we can also put Empty Property Insurance in place through our Blanket Policy.*
- 2** A search for relevant documents takes place
We can find the documents for you. Other services at this point can include: Will Search, Asset Search, House Search and House Clearance.*
- 3** Local authority then refunded for funeral costs through the estate
- 4** Deceased's assets sold
We can sell the assets for you.
- 5** Government Legal Department is informed
If, for some reason, we are unable to trace next-of-kin, we can inform the Government Legal Department for you.

* Chargeable services paid for from the estate



EMPTY HOMES

HOW CAN WE SUPPORT YOU?

- We specialise in tracing owners or their next-of-kin of properties that are either vacant, occupied illegally or falling into disrepair
- Full property assessment, **free of charge**
- Impartial advice as to which products best suit your needs
- Property clearance and private treaty auction sale options
- Assist in bringing the property to a standard where it can be utilised in order to sell on and acquire estate funds
- A full valuation service, including probate valuations

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Probate valuations
- Full property management and security
- House clearance and auction sales
- Empty property insurance
- Energy Performance Certificates
- Probate sales

WE OFFER AN EXTENSIVE RANGE OF PROBATE PROPERTY SERVICES TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES



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Need more information?
Contact us

Our thorough asset search includes looking at:

- Dormant bank and building society accounts
- Stocks and shares
- Pension schemes
- Life policies and investments trusts
- Credit checks

THE COST OF A PUBLIC HEALTH FUNERAL CAN HAVE A GREAT IMPACT ON THE LOCAL AUTHORITY BUDGET. THE DECEASED MAY HAVE LEFT ASSETS BEHIND, AND BY INSTRUCTING US YOU MAY BE ABLE TO CLAIM COSTS BACK

SINCE 2012 OVER
£500,000
OF UNKNOWN ASSETS

DISCOVERED

31%

OF ALL SEARCHES MAKE A FIND
A RECOVERY RATE OF

193%

OF THE COSTS

OUR FINDS RANGE FROM

**£0.01 to
£88,740.13**

IN ASSET VALUE

We offer a number of different services to support you with managing assets.

MEDALLION SIGNATURE GUARANTEE

For those looking to sell or transfer North American securities, Fraser and Fraser can arrange Medallion Signature Guarantees in relation to stocks and shares paperwork. In addition we can also assist with the transfer and sale.

We have a broad range of experience in dealing with a variety of holdings, and appreciate every case is different.

SHARE VALUATIONS

Fraser and Fraser can provide share valuations to ensure you can complete the necessary tax forms when dealing with Inheritance Tax.

TRANSFER OR SELL SHARES

If you yourself hold or you are administering an estate with UK and/or international shareholdings, Fraser and Fraser can assist with the transfer and sale of UK and/or international shareholdings.

ISLE OF MAN AND CHANNEL ISLANDS GRANT OF PROBATE

If you are administering an estate with assets in the Isle of Man or Channel Islands, let Fraser and Fraser assist by obtaining the Grant of Probate on your behalf.

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LOCATING A WILL

DISCOVER WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS A VALID WILL

WHY DO A WILL SEARCH?

- The Will may have details of the next-of-kin
- The Will may include details of burial/cremation wishes
- Information on assets can be revealed in a Will, which may help recover costs
- Make sure that all eventualities are covered to allow you to follow best practice methods

WHAT DO WE PROVIDE?

We undertake a full Certainty search (which includes REACH, National Wills Register, and Missing Will Notice Board).

We check with the Probate Registry safe custody clerk.

We contact local Will Writers (members of the Institute of Professional Will Writers and the Society of Will Writers).

Please note: searches are based on up to 3 addresses used by the deceased

Contact our Public Sector department
on 020 7832 1400 or
publicsector@fraserandfraser.co.uk.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH SERVICES

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH SERVICES

We may be able to assist you with other case work as well.

Fraser and Fraser support the public sector in tracing next-of-kin mainly when it relates to 'deceased' case work. However, there may be times where you need our assistance in other circumstances.

We are more frequently being asked to provide an additional research service whereby the person is not yet deceased.

Due to the nature of this request and the very clear guidelines on how and when this information can be provided by Fraser and Fraser, please speak to our experienced team of case managers who are here to assist you every step of the way with the retrieval of such sensitive information.



TESTIMONIAL

“We have worked directly and indirectly with your company for a number of years. The nature of estate related work undertaken by this department is such that we deal with clients who have died for whom we previously acted under appointeeship or deputyship with Islington Council or who have been referred for Public Health Funerals by the coroner. This has meant we have either worked with Fraser and Fraser after referring a case to the Government Legal Department for further estate administration or we have referred directly to Fraser and Fraser to assist with searches for family members or to conduct searches to construct a family tree for an individual to ascertain who the next-of-kin might be.

I would say that Fraser and Fraser have provided an extremely prompt, highly effective and professional service.

Their cost-effective methods work to the best interests of the estate and the local authority involved and their staff are friendly, understanding and extremely helpful.

I would particularly recommend their services from the point of view of trying to locate lost relatives as their response time is usually within a couple of days. I am satisfied that they provide a high level of service irrespective of the nature of the query or value of the estate.”

- Client Finance and Asset Management Team
Islington Council

“I would like to confirm that whenever this Authority’s Environmental Health Department has used the services of Fraser and Fraser when dealing with Public Health Funerals and tracing the deceased’s possible relatives, we have always found them to be very helpful and quick in their responses.

Their knowledge and professionalism in investigating possible relatives has proved to be very useful in certain cases.

We look forward to working with you.”

- Principal Environmental Health Officer
Environmental Health Department

George Marshall Millen chose to spend the last years of his life in a shed on the Scotland Bridge Lock, Surrey, despite having £27,000 worth of assets.

Mr Millen died without leaving a Will, giving no indication of who he wanted to inherit his valuable estate.

It was only when probate research firm Fraser and Fraser, who star on BBC One’s daytime show Heir Hunters, tracked down his sister, that the family discovered his unusual way of life.

Anne King had not seen her brother for over 25 years after he chose to tie off all forms of contact.

When the London based firm contacted Mrs King, she said she felt a “feeling of relief that at last I would know what had happened to him”.

Mrs King last saw her brother at their mother’s 80th birthday over a quarter of a century ago. Although her other brother, Boyd, had tried to find him, no one managed to get back in touch.

Mr Millen used to live in a house boat along the canal, but when the council deemed it unfit for habitation, he chose to build his own home.

As an ex-meteorologist who spent many years at the Met Office and learnt his craft in the military, Mr Millen enjoyed the outdoors.

Neil Fraser, Partner at Fraser and Fraser said: “We sometimes get unusual cases such as Mr Millen’s which can make it harder to track. Once we located his birth certificate, however, the family tree started to unravel.

“Mr Millen actually had £10,000 worth of premium bonds with the rest sitting in his bank account – something which the four heirs, including his sister, can now enjoy.

“In cases where the deceased is elderly, we often find the beneficiaries are further down the family tree, but here we managed to find near kin, as well as Mr Millen’s nieces.”

Fraser and Fraser managed to help the local authority in finding assets and recovering funeral costs by locating a total of four heirs, the majority in the Cheshire and Liverpool area.

Got a question?
Our probate
research experts
are on hand
to help.

Frequently asked questions

1. What is the TRUE cost-and time-saving benefit to you?

On average a local authority spends between 6 and 30 hours in trying to locate family members. This has strong cost and time implications, which includes making detailed enquiries through the property, neighbours, assets or a will. Since every department has limited resources, and budget constraints are a huge factor, by contact us directly we are able to help you save both time and costs.

2. At what stage should I send you the case details?

By providing case details to us as soon as possible, we can help off-set admin costs attached to them. Please send all details to publicsector@fraserandfraser.co.uk.

3. What happens after I email you the case details?

Once your query has been received, we will assign your case to the relevant case manager, who will then be your direct point of contact. If you have worked with us previously and would like to work with the same case manager as before, please ask and we would be happy to arrange this for you.

4. How quickly will I hear back from Fraser and Fraser?

We guarantee you will receive a research update within the first 24 hours*. After that time, you will be updated regularly on the status of the case – we understand the need for prompt timelines when dealing with such sensitive issues. * Monday to Friday

5. Can we meet in person to discuss the process prior to sending over a case?

We are more than happy to meet you in person at your convenience, to discuss what we do and how we can assist you. Please contact our Business Development Manager, Anthony John on 020 7832 1400 or email anthonyjohn@fraserandfraser.co.uk

6. Will you look at a file, even if we think there are known family?

If there are any known or suspected-known family, we aim to locate their current address, and through our research we can confirm whether they are entitled. If there is money in the estate, we will continue to research the family in hope of reaching an agreement with other possible heirs.

7. What happens if you can't find family?

We will report back to you and send copies of all the documents we have, along with a family tree. We are also more than happy to assist in completing the required Government Legal Department paperwork..

8. What pricing model do Fraser and Fraser work with in tracing next-of-kin?

Our tracing next-of-kin service is free to local authorities; we recover our costs when we successfully trace beneficiaries to an estate, usually directly from the heir as a percentage of their entitlement.

9. Do you have a set minimum value?

No. If the fee amount which is likely to be recovered does not cover the expenditure to reach an agreement with all family members, we will endeavour to pass you back the contact details of at least one family member free of charge. Overseas cases, however, may differ.

10. Can I still hand the estate to the Bona Vacantia – part of the Government Legal Department (formally known as the Treasury Solicitor)?

Yes, of course; Fraser and Fraser are here to assist you. Within the first 24 hours we will provide you with an update. This will inform you as to whether it will be possible to determine if there are any heirs, and thus if there will be a need to complete the Government Legal Department's paperwork.

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Referring a case is easy – just tell us as much as you can about your enquiry and one of our case managers will be in touch.

REFER A CASE

GET IN TOUCH

If you are interested in any of our public sector services or would like some more information, please get in touch

t: 020 7832 1430

f: 020 7832 1450

publicsector@fraserandfraser.co.uk

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If you would like us to explain how we can work together please contact our Business Development Manager, Anthony John at anthonyjohn@fraserandfraser.co.uk

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At Fraser and Fraser, you will find a team of efficient, dedicated and experienced probate researchers who offer the best service for you and your clients.

We've been tracing missing heirs and beneficiaries to unclaimed estates, dormant funds and derelict properties for almost a century. And because we know the process so well, we'll make it as smooth and transparent as possible, giving you peace of mind.

Working alongside the legal profession, banks and a number of divisions in the public sector, each referral is treated on a case-by-case basis. We pride ourselves on our *commitment* and *clarity*.

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MORE THAN
20,000
cases solved



TOTAL
case value
£200m+



OVER
100,000
beneficiaries traced