

How does the process of winding-up & administering a deceased estate work? - Step by step



OBTAIN ALL THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The nominated executor or family of the deceased are to attend to the following:

- Obtain the original Death Certificate;
- If the deceased has left a Will, obtain the original last Will and Testament

Obtain copies of all relevant deceased estate papers and documents (i.e. bank statements, account statements, title deeds, life assurance policies, etc.). Ensure that they are in order.



OBTAIN A LETTER OF EXECUTORSHIP

After the above mentioned documents have been submitted, the Master will formally appoint the Executor and grant him or her the necessary powers to administer the estate, in terms of a Letter of Executorship.



REPORT THE DECEASED ESTATE TO THE MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT



NGL Attorneys will arrange an initial consultation with the nominated executor and/or family of the deceased in order to obtain the relevant and required documents and relevant information that will be required to report the estate and apply for appointment of the Executor.

The following documents (inter alia) are prepared to report the deceased estate to the Master of the High Court:

- Death Notice
- Acceptance of Trust as Executor
- Next of Kin Affidavit (if applicable)
- Section 9 Inventory

PUBLISH THE NOTICE TO CREDITORS



As soon as the Letter of Executorship has been issued by the Master, a Notice to Creditors must be published in the Government Gazette and a local paper where the deceased was ordinarily resident at the time of his death.



PREPARE LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT

Upon expiration of the 30-day notice period to all the deceased's creditors, NGL Attorneys will prepare the Liquidation & Distribution Account, which provides details of the deceased's assets and liabilities.



INSPECTION PERIOD FOR LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT



Once the information in the draft Liquidation & Distribution Account has been confirmed by the Executor, NGL Attorneys will file the First and Final Liquidation & Distribution account to the Master for consent, and publish a Notice of Inspection in the Government Gazette and a local paper where the deceased was ordinarily resident at the time of his death.

The First and Final Liquidation & Distribution Account lies for inspection for a period of 21 days, and any possible objections are lodged with Master

DISTRIBUTION TO HEIRS AND PAYMENTS TO CREDITORS



Upon expiration of the 21-day inspection period, without any objections, and after the Master has accepted the Liquidation & Distribution account then NGL Attorneys will attend to distribution of the estate in terms of the First and Final Liquidation & Distribution Account, which includes:

- Distribution of assets and transfer of immovable property.
- Payment to heirs; and
- Payment of creditors;

After the 21 days has elapsed, a SARS compliance certificate will be needed before distribution.



PAYMENT OF MASTER'S FEE AND SUBMISSION OF ESTATE DUTY RETURN

During the period of inspection, NGL Attorneys will attend to payment of the Master's Fee and submit the Estate Duty Return to SARS. SARS will need to issue us with a compliance certificate for every estate regardless if estate duty is payable or not.



OBTAIN THE FILING SLIP

After the completion of the distribution process, NGL Attorneys needs to provide the Master with proof that the assets have been distributed and all creditors have been paid.

If the Master is satisfied, a filing slip will be issued, the estate will be deemed to be finalised and the duties of the Executor are discharged.