Why should I choose Thomas Dunton to help?

We have been helping people make informed decisions about planning for the future for over 40 years.

Our friendly, experienced and sympathetic team are regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and adhere to enhanced standards of professional conduct. We are also proud to be Dementia Friends.

But what does that mean for you? It means we only have your best interests at heart. We will dedicate the time to listen and understand your circumstances and needs, to help make the best decisions for you and your loved ones.

But don't just take our word for it, here is a summary of just some of the things our clients have said about us…

"You have been utterly brilliant when we needed you most."

"Wonderful and understanding. Guided me through the process and presented all the options in a way I could understand."

"Extremely helpful and efficient. Service provided was faultless from start to finish."

"Been a customer for years. Wouldn't go anywhere else."

"Informative, patient, understanding and most helpful."

"Knowledgeable and efficient. You provided helpful and practical advice. A pleasure to deal with."

"In this day and age of impersonal internet services, we feel lucky to have dealt with a firm which operates at the human level."

What else can Thomas Dunton help you with?

Our solicitors are here to talk to you about even the most complex legal matters, to listen to your needs and offer practical solutions.

- Buying & Selling a Property
- Dispute Resolution
- Personal Injury
- Family & Children
- Employment Law
- Mediation
- Powers of Attorney
- Probate
- Contested Probate
- Wills
- Business Law

www.thomasdunton.co.uk

THOMAS DUNTON SOLICITORS

Accredited LEXCEL Practice Management Standard – The Law Society

Solicitors Regulation Authority

Accredited Children Law – The Law Society

Accredited Personal Injury – The Law Society

Accredited Conveyancing Quality Scheme (CQS) – The Law Society

Association of Personal Injury Lawyers – apil – Accredited Practice

resolution – first for family law

fsb – Experts in Business

Contracted with the **Legal Aid** *agency*

reviewsolicitor

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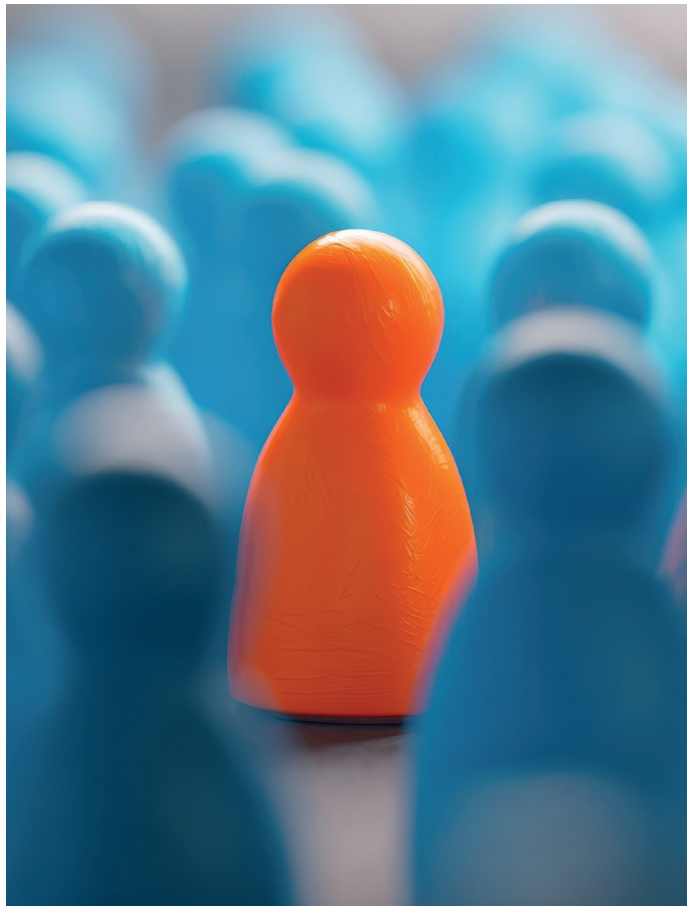
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THOMAS DUNTON SOLICITORS

Your guide to

Choosing an Executor

LOCAL PROFESSIONAL TRUSTED

Who is the Best Person to Act as an Executor?

When you make a will, you choose an executor to carry out your wishes after you die. The executor is legally responsible for managing your estate, paying debts and taxes, and distributing assets to the beneficiaries you have named.

Choosing an Executor

Choosing the right executor is one of the most important decisions when planning an estate.

When it comes to choosing an executor, we recommend choosing someone who is:

- ☑ **Trustworthy**: they will manage your money, property, and belongings after you pass away. Choose someone honest and reliable.
- ☑ **Organised**: they will handle lots of paperwork, including tax forms, bills, and legal documents. Choose someone who is good at keeping things in order.
- ☑ **Available**: being an executor takes time. Choose someone with enough time to do the job properly.
- ☑ **Able to manage family dynamics**: choose someone you trust to keep things fair and calm.

Don't leave legal issues too late: seek advice at the earliest stage.

Family Member vs Professional Executor

Executors may be individuals, such as family members or friends, or professionals, including solicitors, accountants, or trust companies.

While family members often are chosen for their personal knowledge and understanding of family circumstances, we are seeing more people seeking the reassurance that a professional executor provides through their legal and financial expertise, particularly for complex estates.

Here we compare the two options for you:

	Family Member	Professional Executor
Knowledge of Complex Rules	May not understand inheritance tax (IHT) or new pension rules	Expert in tax laws, probate, and legal requirements
Emotional Impact	Can be stressful during grief	Reduces burden on family during tough times
Risk Management	Might overlook risks like claims against the estate	Professionally trained to handle risks and liabilities
Efficiency	May take longer due to unfamiliar paperwork	Faster turnaround with in-house systems and processes
Family Conflicts	Can get caught in disputes	Neutral party helps avoid or manage conflicts
Cost	No fee, but may cause delays or mistakes	Our charges are similar whether an executor or administering an estate by an external executor
Handling Complex Paperwork	Time-consuming and confusing	Managed smoothly by experienced professionals

It is also possible to appoint both, allowing them to share responsibilities.

Why Thomas Dunton Solicitors LLP?

When you appoint us as your executor, we provide peace of mind that your estate will be handled correctly, professionally, and efficiently.

We are here to make things simple and stress-free for you and your loved ones. With our in-depth knowledge of probate law, evolving tax rules, and complex financial matters, we will make sure your wishes are carried out exactly as you intended. We will also take care of the details you might not have thought about, so everything is handled properly—without adding extra worry during a difficult time.

Similarly, we realise that one of the biggest concerns when planning for the future is the possibility of family disagreements. Our impartial approach helps prevent disputes and, when conflicts do arise, we navigate them with sensitivity and professionalism—making us a trusted choice for protecting your wishes and safeguarding your legacy.

You will also benefit from greater efficiency in both time and cost when your executor is in-house. Our team can process forms quickly, and our fees remain comparable whether we act as your executor or administer the estate alongside an external executor—giving you confidence that everything will be handled smoothly and without unnecessary expense.

For more information, please contact our Wills and Probate Department on 01689 822554 or visit www.thomasdunton.co.uk