



In the Supreme Court of Bermuda

A/50

11 July 2025

CIRCULAR NO. 14 OF 2025

TO ALL ATTORNEYS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

RE: FURTHER UPDATE ON THE PROBATE DIVISION

This Circular is issued further to Circulars No. 29 of 2024 and No. 4 of 2025.

Update on 2023 / 2024 Applications

- (1) The Probate Team has worked exceptionally hard to meet the goal set out in Circular No. 4 of 2025, namely to have actioned all outstanding 2023 applications by the end of April 2025. The Probate Team has now begun its review of all outstanding 2024 applications.
- (2) Of the 193 applications filed in 2024, 47 of those applications have been completed, with grants being issued. There are an additional 13 applications that have been reviewed by the Probate Team and are currently awaiting receipt of further information, or the filing of amended documents from the Applicant or Applicant's attorney in order to proceed.
- (3) While it was hoped that the Probate Team would have actioned all 2024 applications by the end of July 2025, we have regrettably experienced a shortage in staffing that has impacted our ability to meet this goal. It is now anticipated that the remaining 2024 applications requiring review will have been actioned by the end of September 2025.
- (4) To ensure that we reach this goal, the Registry will employ additional resources. The Registry will aim to issue a further Circular in October 2025 to provide an update on the processing of 2024 applications.

Department Objectives for 2025 Applications

- (5) Given the directives set out in Circular No. 4 of 2025 and also above, applications filed in 2025 are presently on hold until we have actioned all outstanding 2024 applications. To date, we have received a total of 112 2025 applications. It is anticipated that the Probate Team will begin its review of all outstanding 2025 applications in October 2025.

Expedited Applications

- (6) Applications of an urgent nature that have been approved for expediting, will continue to be processed within three (3) weeks of approval being granted. Please continue to ensure your requests for applications to be expedited include as much information as possible to allow the Acting Registrar and/or the Assistant Registrar to make an informed decision.

Stamp Duty

- (7) With effect from 21 February 2025, the Supreme Court is no longer accepting cheques or other forms of payment for stamp duty. All Stamp Duty payments must be made to the Accountant General directly.
- (8) Please note that while the Supreme Court accepts electronic payments in respect of filing fees and Court-Ordered payments only, the Accountant General has not changed its process for the collection of stamp duty on behalf of the Tax Commissioner. Stamp Duty Payments in relation to a deceased estate are to be made via cheque presented to the Accountant General Cashiers (located on the Ground Floor of the Government Administration Building) along with a copy of the Supreme Court's Stamp Duty Certificate, which is then stamped by the Accountant General.
- (9) Once payment has been made as set out above, please provide a copy of the stamped certificate to the Supreme Court, either via probate@gov.bm, or in hard copy filed at the Supreme Court Registry (located at the Dame Lois Browne Evans Building, 2nd Floor). The Supreme Court will record the payment and issue a Stamp Duty Receipt reflecting any balance due on the assessment.

Probate Contact

- (10) Please continue to utilize the email address assigned to the Probate Division: probate@gov.bm to make contact with the Supreme Court in respect of all queries relating to probate applications. ALL correspondence must include this email, whether it is being sent to a specific member of the Probate Team or not.

Dated the 11th day of July 2025



ACTING REGISTRAR

CC: The Attorney-General's Chambers
Department of Public Prosecutions
Hamilton Police Station
Commissioner of Police
Commissioner of Corrections
Magistrates Court
Bermuda Bar Association
Legal Aid Office

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