

Listed shares, mainstream investments and death

What do you mean by listed shares and mainstream investments?

Listed shares will usually be shareholdings in UK public limited companies (plc) companies traded on the London stock exchange. Mainstream investments refers to funds, typically open ended investment company (OEIC) or Unit Trust investments, usually managed within an investment portfolio by an investment manager or via an entity with links to the fund.

It may be simpler to define these investments by separating out what does not fall in this category. The main exclusions are:

- private company shares and business assets (i.e. holdings in English / Welsh Limited' companies);
- assets that have an element of life insurance included within their structure; and
- pensions

What is the first task concerning these assets when someone dies?

An executor or administrator needs to notify all relevant organisations of the person's death.

This includes the providers of these types of investment. After satisfying the organisation's compliance requirements, the initial information needed and which all UK organisations must supply is the date of death balance for each investment and a figure for income accrued, but not yet paid as at the date of death. This accrued income for listed shares manifests as ex-dividends – those dividends which had been declared as at the date of death but which had not yet been paid

by that pint.

Do I need a Grant to access the deceased's investment?

In most cases, yes. For lower value investments and estates, the asset provider, may, at their own discretion, dispense with the need for the Grant and be happy to rely upon an indemnity from estate claimants.

Can I use the deceased shares or mainstream investments to pay the Inheritance Tax?

You can ask the organisation managing the assets if this is a possibility. From experience, stockbrokers and large financial organisations managing such investments often agree, subject to the executor or administrator confirming certain points (e.g. the solvency of the estate, supplying a copy of the Will) and indemnifying the provider.

