

Cereta A. Lee

*Prince George's County
Register of Wills*

**“Assisting the Families of
Prince George’s County
in Their Time of Need”**



Who is the Register of Wills?



**Cereta A. Lee
Prince George’s County
Register of Wills**



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What is the Register of Wills Office?



- Public Office established under the Constitution of the State of Maryland
- Register for each county and the City of Baltimore
- Elected every four years – Mrs. Lee was elected in 2006 and was re-elected in 2018.
- The Next Election date is June 2022.



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What does the Register of Wills Office do?

- Administration of Estates
(also known as “Probate”)

Handles over 3,000 estates per year

- Serve as the Clerk to the
Orphans’ Court
- Guardianships of minors
- Safekeeping of Wills/Codicils
(\$5.00 fee)



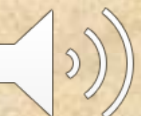
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ADMINISTERING
ESTATES
IN
MARYLAND



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Administration of Estates

Includes determining value of property, payment of expenses and debts, and distribution of assets to the heirs or legatees

Three types of estates:

- Small Estate
- Regular Estate
- Modified Administration



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Required Documents

- Original Will (if any)
- Death Certificate
- Names and addresses of spouse, children, (if any) and anyone named in the Will to inherit.



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Additional Items Needed

Small Estates

- Funeral Bill
- Documentation of all assets titled in the decedent’s name alone.
- Proof of any secured liens as of date of death.
- Small estate fees are due at the time of filing the estate.

Regular Estates

- An estimate of assets titled in the decedent’s name alone.



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Administration of Estates Process

Maryland law requires that a bond (if necessary) be filed before being appointed as Personal Representative.

- Once appointed as Personal Representative, Letters of Administration are issued.
- After the initial appointment additional paperwork will be required.



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Administration of Estates Process

- Contact Social Security to cancel any checks that need to be returned.
- Contact an accountant or financial advisor to make sure that all tax issues are completed and resolved.



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What expenses may be incurred during the Administration of Estates?

- Administration of Estate Fees
- Taxes
- Appraisal Fees
- Mortgage payments
- Car notes
- Credit card bills
- Medical expenses
- Any other expenses related to your affairs



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What taxes may be due?

There may be Federal and Maryland Estate Taxes. (Contact an accountant to verify)

- Direct heirs are tax exempt
- Other heirs that are tax exempt would be a spouse of a direct heir and siblings.
- There is a 10% Maryland Inheritance Tax for collateral heirs.



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**Please feel free to
contact us....**

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(301) 952-3250**

**Public Hours:
Monday- Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

www.registers.maryland.gov

