Inheritance document checklist before contacting an Abu Dhabi lawyer

Which documents should you prepare for the first consultation?

Prepare the death certificate, available identity documents, marriage and relationship records, previous certificates or judgments, the will and known asset and debt information. Include case numbers, deadlines, notices and significant correspondence. This is a preparation list, not a substitute for each service’s official requirements.

List missing information too: an unknown account number, a property reported by relatives, unavailable heir details or a will without its original. Distinguish established information from possibilities and identify lawful information requests rather than presenting unverified allegations as facts.

How are the deceased’s assets and receivables inventoried?

Group property, accounts, deposits, vehicles, shares, receivables and other assets. Record ownership evidence, location, estimated value, mortgages, disputes and co-owners. Include amounts owed to the deceased without assuming payment occurred.

Distinguish the deceased’s property from others’ property, sole ownership from shared interests, and market value from net available funds. Obtain information through lawful channels consistent with standing and authorization.

Should estate debts be checked before distribution?

Review rights and liabilities affecting the amount available for distribution. Maintain a separate register of debts, claims, administration expenses, mortgages and wills, including evidence, amounts, claimants and objections. Do not distribute balances from a verbal list.

Seek advice before signing a personal debt acknowledgment or settlement creating a new obligation. A disputed claim requires examination of proof, standing and liability; neither every alleged debt nor an immediate sale of every asset can be assumed.

How is a civil will in Abu Dhabi reviewed?

ADJD provides civil-will registration, an Arabic-English template and inheritance-distribution information. Check the registered version, date, revocations, amendments, testator, beneficiaries, assets and executor.

Registration and implementation after death are different. Examine the instrument, conditions, assets and authority. A will from another emirate or country is not automatically effective over all property; assess recognition and its effect on each asset.

How is an estate handled when heirs or assets are abroad?

List countries, authorities, assets, judgments, wills and powers of attorney. Examine translation, authentication and submission requirements by procedure and assess coordination with counsel in the asset’s country.

An overseas power of attorney is not necessarily accepted for every act or institution. Its wording and formalities must cover the task. Foreign assets may require separate proceedings; state what the Abu Dhabi engagement covers and what needs overseas follow-up.

How do you prepare a foreign death certificate, power of attorney or judgment?

Separate the document from its purpose: a death certificate proves an event, a power of attorney defines authority, and a foreign judgment may require recognition or enforcement assessment. Record country, issuer, language, date, authentication and translation.

Check the receiving institution’s requirements before arranging translation or authentication. Review litigation, settlement, waiver, receipt of funds and registration powers separately; correct formalities do not imply authority for every transaction.

How is implementation tracked across multiple authorities?

Create an asset-by-asset register of institution, required record, decision, authorization, application number, outcome and deficiencies. Separate judicial steps from bank, securities-custodian or property-registry transactions.

When a transaction stalls, request a specific reason: missing ID, name inconsistency, unclear order or restriction. Send the official response for assessment rather than repeatedly submitting the same incomplete file. Close each item with transfer, payment or outcome evidence.

Preparation guide; jurisdiction and acceptance require case assessment.