

25 November 2020

The Hon Peter Quinlan  
Chief Justice of Western Australia  
Chief Justice's Chambers  
Supreme Court of Western Australia

By email: [Angela.Milne@justice.wa.gov.au](mailto:Angela.Milne@justice.wa.gov.au)

Dear Chief Justice

### **SEARCHING THE COURT'S ELECTRONIC PORTAL FOR GRANTS OF PROBATE**

Members of the Law Society who practice in Estate Administration have alerted me to a difficulty in searching the Supreme Court of Western Australia's e-courts portal for Probate matters.

As it stands, an online search can be performed only using the name of the applicant of the Grant of Probate / Letters of Administration.

It would greatly assist practitioners if the search function could extend to searching by the name of the deceased. This is because those acting for potential claimants under the *Inheritance (Family and Dependants Provision) Act 1972* (the Act) know the name of the deceased but may not be aware of who is the executor or administrator of an estate. In the case of those who have died testate, potential applicants may not have seen a copy of the Will and therefore do not know whose name to search for on the e-courts portal.

Although it is possible to submit an enquiry with the Court regarding a Grant, where one can enquire using the name of the deceased for the payment of a fee, it would assist practitioners and reduce costs for clients if it was possible to make a preliminary search on the e-courts portal prior to submission of an enquiry.

I am hopeful that there may be a simple technological solution to this quandary and ask you to investigate the matter.

If you have any queries please contact Mary Woodford, General Manager Advocacy on (08) 9324 8646 or [mwoodford@lawsocietywa.asn.au](mailto:mwoodford@lawsocietywa.asn.au)

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



David Price  
**Chief Executive Officer**