



Being an Executor: A role of trust, responsibility and risk management



What is an Executor?

An executor is legally responsible for administering the estate in line with the Will and the law, always acting in the best interests of the estate. The role of an Executor is a position of trust.

Key duties in Queensland

Include:

- Locating and maintaining assets
- Paying off debts and taxes
- Distributing assets to beneficiaries
- Keeping accurate records
- Avoiding conflicts of interest

Personal Liability

If something goes wrong, the executor may be personally liable.

Family or Independent Executor?

A spouse, eldest child or family business-involved child are often chosen. But... are they the right choice?

Consideration	Why it matters
Skills	Estate administration often involves complex business and tax matters
Emotional burden	Grief + legal responsibilities = stress overload
Longevity	Testamentary trusts may last decades
Family dynamics	Tensions can derail even the best-laid plans
Conflicts of interest	Beneficiary and executor = risk of breach of duty



Learn more

Navigating complex estates starts with the right support.

Contact **Jane Leeuwendal** at jleeuwendal@pilotpartners.com.au, **Bradley Hellen** at bhellen@pilotpartners.com.au or your Pilot advisor on (07) 3023 1300.

Pilot's involvement in Independent Executor appointments

Two common scenarios:

- Named in the Will
- Court appointment after disputes arise

Common issues include:

- Will challenges
- Executor mismanagement

Our role can include:

- Reconstructing financial records
- Valuing businesses and corporate structures
- Tracing and investigations
- Assisting in mediation
- Providing expert evidence in court

Collaboration is key



Key takeaways

- The choice of executor is critical.
- Disputes can erode estate value.
- The right advisors make all the difference.
- Pilot offers independent, experienced support through complex or contested estates.

Contact Pilot

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