

Worcestershire Pension Fund's Policy on the Payment of Death Grants

The Fund will always try to comply with the wishes of the member.

However, it does have absolute discretion as to who the payment of the death grant is made to.

If a member dies, we will first seek out all potential beneficiaries and collect all the information that is available about the deceased's circumstances that could influence our decision.

Our standard processing and checking procedures by delegated Fund Officers will flag up cases where it is not clear cut who the beneficiaries should be, and, in cases where it is not clear cut, delegated Fund Officers will then meet to assess to whom the death grant will be paid and document their decision and its rationale.

They will take account of the following (that are not in priority order, as no two cases are the same and in the modern world families are by no means nuclear) in making their decision (that we will not reveal to anyone other than the beneficiaries who will for their part not be given details of any sharing of the total death grant):

- The existence of a valid (these can become invalid, for example, on ceasing to be the deceased's spouse) nomination form.
- Any evidence that the deceased was married or had a civil partner or had a qualifying (under the LGPS regulations in force at the date of the deceased's death) cohabiting partner.
- The existence of any surviving children or stepchildren i.e. children do not have to be qualifying children under the LGPS regulations in force at the date of the deceased's death.
- The existence of a will / Grant of Probate.
- The laws of intestacy in England.

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