



The best free resource for tax advice you will find

One of the best kept secrets in tax advice is that some of the best information that you can get is available from a free resource on the internet. This resource is used on a daily basis by many professional tax advisers– but rather less often by their clients, who seldom seem to know about it.

One of the virtues of the free resource is that much of it is written in plain accessible language that anyone can understand (even a solicitor or an accountant). On occasion it explains some quite difficult issues in tax law rather well. (At least in my view).

I would be willing to wager that many solicitors and accountants have passed themselves off as particularly well informed about HMRC policy by making use of this resource – without giving away how they came by their information to their clients.

The book “Probate made Simple” recommends that you leave arcane matters such as the calculation of tax to professionals. However, if you insist on getting involved in these matters yourself, or you want more than a nodding acquaintance with the taxation of estates, I am more than willing to help you by spilling the beans on this hitherto well-kept secret.

The resource I am referring to is the series of tax manuals helpfully posted by HMRC on its website.

One of the delightful things about these manuals is that you can use them to find the answers to some quite specific questions that never seem to be considered and answered in the generalist publications you can buy on (for example) Inheritance Tax and Probate.

Another of the many positive things to be said for the resource is that you are unlikely to fall foul of HMRC if you comply with the guidance it provides. This is because the guidance (I believe I am correct in saying) is the guidance provided by HMRC to its own tax inspectors - to help them to negotiate the intricate, confusing and often opaque structure that the UK tax system has evolved into.

If it works for them (and for your own professional advisers) it will probably work for you.

The manual that you are probably most interested in if you are a reader (or potential reader) of Probate made Simple is probably:

The Inheritance Tax Manual. www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/ihtmanual/index.htm

You should be able to use the following link to find a manual on any tax-related subject you wish:

Manuals A – Z www.hmrc.gov.uk/thelibrary/manuals-a-z.htm

If you found this download useful and have not yet bought “Probate Made Simple”, please visit www.willsprobateandmore.co.uk where you can purchase it!

Disclaimer

All explanations of the law and legal practice given in this document are intended as no more than outlines for the prospective legal client. They do not replace the need to take professional legal advice. It is recommended that professional legal advice is taken by anyone thinking about acting on any of the issues mentioned in this document.

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