DIPLOMA CENTRE

Diploma in Trust and Estate Planning

LAW SOCIETY OF IRELAND

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Diploma in Trust and Estate Planning is offered jointly by the Law Society of Ireland and the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP). The course has been designed by practitioners with specialist exposure to give a practical insight into key estate planning, legal- and tax-based concerns for private clients in the area of trust and estates. The focus of the diploma course is to enable successful candidates to advise clients on all aspects of the creation of wills, the operation of trusts, associated tax implications, and overall estate planning for clients. Practical in its approach, this course provides participants with real-life situations that practitioners face, and it gives real solutions to problems encountered.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

On completion of this training programme, participants will:

- Advise clients on the creation of wills, the operation of trusts, associated tax implications and overall estate planning;
- Highlight recent judicial decisions and legislative developments;
- Assess the impact of recent developments on practice and procedure;
- Develop their capacity for independent learning.

MODULES

Module 1: Course introduction

- Lifetime and estate planning,
- Basic legal principles,
- Basic tax principles.

Module 2: Introduction to taxation issues

- Application of tax principles,
- CGT, income tax, stamp duty, CAT,
- Double taxation agreements.

Module 3: Lifetime and estate planning

- Lifetime gifting and passing of value on death,
- Legal issues and tax implications of wealth planning structures,
- Financial planning.

Module 4: Trust drafting

- Requirements of a valid trust,
- Classification of trusts,
- Drafting an effective trust deed.

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Module 5: Administration of trusts

- Office of trustee and trustee powers,
- Breach of trust,
- Tax issues in trusts.

Module 6: Will drafting

- Testamentary capacity,
- Solicitors' duty of care,
- Assisted decision-making.

Module 7: Administration of estates

- Applying for the grant,
- Litigation,
- Distribution of assets.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The course is intended primarily for persons who have practical experience in the areas of wills, trusts, estate planning, probate, and the administration of estates within Ireland. In order to participate on the course, you must have relevant work experience of at least one year in the areas covered on the course and one or more of the following qualifications: solicitor, barrister, certified accountant, chartered accountant, associate or fellow of the Irish Taxation Institute, associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers (Trustee Diploma), associate of the Institute of Bankers in Ireland (Diploma in Wealth Management), member of the Irish Institute of Legal Executives, or another professional qualification deemed equivalent by the Law Society and STEP.

To apply for the course, applicants should first apply for STEP Affiliate membership before registering for the course. Successful completion of the course provides a structured route to full membership of STEP and the use of the internationally recognised 'registered trust and estate practitioner' designation.

Please see STEP Ireland's website (www.step.ie) for full details of membership criteria.

If you are interested in applying for a future offering of the course, please subscribe to our Interested List.

Note: The information is this document is subject to change as course content and modules may be adapted.