



Do you need to present a Letter of Authority to make a claim with Thusano Trust?



GOLD FIELDS

we are one
**Sibanye
Stillwater**

Before you head to the office of the Master of the High Court to request this letter, you'll need to prepare several documents. Having these ready upfront will speed up the process.

1. Completed Death Notice (Form J294*):

- This is the official form used to notify the Master of the High Court about the death.
- The form requires details such as the deceased's full name, ID number, marital status, and residential address.

2. ID documents:

- A certified copy of ID documents for both the deceased beneficiary and the applicant

3. Original or Certified Copy of the Death Certificate:

- Obtain this from the Department of Home Affairs.

4. Last Will and Testament (if available):

- If the deceased left a valid will, you must submit the original will or a certified copy.
- If there is no will, the estate will be administered intestate, meaning distribution of assets follows the rules set out by the Intestate Succession Act.

5. Birth certificates of minor children:

- If applicable

6. Death certificate:

- Of deceased children, siblings, or parents of the deceased beneficiary.
- This is to show that there are no other living potential claimants to the estate

7. Antenuptial contract:

- In the case of marriage outside of community of property

8. Decree of divorce / deed of settlement:

- If applicable

9. Inventory (Form J243*):

- This form provides the Master with a snapshot of the assets and liabilities of the estate.
- List all immovable and movable property, such as real estate, vehicles, and any investments.

10. Next of Kin Affidavit (Form J192*if needed):

- Sometimes required to confirm the deceased's family structure, particularly if there's no valid will.

11. Will or nominations

- If the will nominates you as the heir, include a copy of that clause or the entire will showing the nomination.
- If there is no will, include a nomination by the heirs, for you to act as the representative.

Once the Master's Office is satisfied with the documents submitted, they will issue the Letter of Authority (Form J170). You will also sign a J155 form, which means you accept your appointment as the representative to administer the estate and will do so according to the rules.

*All forms can be downloaded from the Department of Justice website: <https://www.justice.gov.za/master/forms.html>. These are subject to current requirements and / or updates from the Department of Justice.