

Information.—A person desiring information as to the origin of a fund in Court may in most cases obtain it by inspecting the Orders, &c., of the Court quoted in the List (see Note below). If he finds reason to believe that he may be interested in a particular fund he may apply, *in writing only*, to THE ASSISTANT PAYMASTER-GENERAL, ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE, LONDON, who, at his discretion, may supply information as to—

(a.) The amount of the Fund.

(b.) The date of any Order of Court known to relate to it, other than that stated in the List.

This is usually the only information which can be furnished, as the Supreme Court Pay Office is solely a financial Department, and has no record of the origin or details of the various suits, or of the circumstances under which the funds have been directed or allowed to remain in Court.

Application.—*Each application for information must quote the correct title of the matter or suit, and must be signed by the applicant.*

If the application be made by a person who is not a Solicitor, he must state the grounds upon which he claims to be beneficially interested in the fund. The mere fact that he bears the same surname as that of a person named in an account is not sufficient. Probates of Wills, or baptismal or other certificates, should *not* accompany an application.

If the application be made by a Solicitor, he must state the name and address of the client by whom he is instructed, and that he believes him to be beneficially interested in the fund.

Stamps.—Each application must be stamped with a 2s. 6d. adhesive Judicature Stamp. Such Stamps can be obtained at the Royal Courts of Justice (Room 2); at the District Registries of the High Court; and at all Head Post Offices in England.

Payment for Stamps on applications from abroad may be made by Money Order payable to "The Commissioners of Inland Revenue."

Coin, or postage stamps, must *not* be sent.

Orders of Court.—Funds in Court can only be paid out, or otherwise dealt with, under the direction of an Order of Court. If a Fund cannot be dealt with under any Order quoted in the List, or under any other existing Order, application to the Court for further directions will be necessary, in accordance with the ordinary forms of legal procedure. In many cases the Funds have remained in Court for more than a century, and proof of title might involve expense quite out of proportion to the amount recoverable. No legal advice can be given at the Supreme Court Pay Office as to the steps necessary to be taken in any particular case; nor can advice be given as to the selection of a Solicitor.

Caution.—The lists of "next-of-kin," "heirs to unclaimed money," &c., issued by various persons, are not official publications, and sometimes contain gross misstatements and exaggerations.

The public are also cautioned against relying upon the statements of persons styling themselves "unclaimed money agents," at home or abroad, and professing to be able to recover money in Chancery on payment of fees or percentage, or to act on behalf of the "Court of Chancery." The Supreme Court of Judicature has no such agents.

It is recommended that independent advice should be obtained before making a payment to any agency for information, searches, copies of advertisements, &c., in respect to money alleged to be in Court. Experience has shown that the information so supplied is often valueless to the persons concerned.

NOTE.—The Orders, Reports, Certificates, and Affidavits, referred to in the List are kept, if prior to 1886, at the Legal Room, Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London, where they can be inspected on personal application, and on payment of the prescribed search fees. Copies may be obtained on application to the Secretary, if the date of the document and the title of the cause be given, but it must be understood that no search can be undertaken by the officials of the Public Record Office. The Orders, &c., from 1886 to the present time are kept at the Filing and Record Department of the Central Office, Royal Courts of Justice (Room 81).

Enquiries respecting Wills, Probates, and Letters of Administration may be made personally at the Principal Probate Registry, Somerset House, London. Written applications may be addressed to "The Record Keeper," at that address.

Records of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, since 1st July, 1837, are kept at the General Register Office, Somerset House, London.

All the above-mentioned documents can be inspected during official hours, or copies obtained, on payment of the prescribed Fees.

Application to inspect Orders in Lunacy should be made to the Masters in Lunacy Room 213, Royal Courts of Justice.