

Permittable witnesses for Life Certificates

Section B of the Life Certificate should be completed by a witness in a recognised profession who must know you in a personal or professional capacity but cannot be a next of kin. They do not need to live in the UK or have a British passport. Please note that Consular Officials at your local Embassy cannot act as witnesses for this purpose.

Examples of people working in (or being retired from) recognised professions deemed “persons of good standing in their community are:

- accountant
- airline pilot
- articulated clerk of a limited company
- assurance agent of recognised company
- bank/building society official
- barrister
- chairman/director of limited company
- chiropodist
- commissioner of oaths
- councillor (local or county)
- civil servant (permanent), but not someone who works for Her Majesty’s Passport Office
- dentist
- director/manager of a VAT-registered charity
- director/manager/personnel officer of a VAT-registered company
- engineer (with professional qualifications)
- financial services intermediary (e.g. a stockbroker or insurance broker)
- fire service official
- funeral director
- insurance agent (full time) of a recognised company
- journalist
- Justice of the Peace
- legal secretary (fellow or associate member of the Institute of Legal Secretaries and PAs)
- licensee of public house
- local government officer
- manager/personnel officer (of a limited company)
- member, associate or fellow of a professional body
- Member of Parliament
- Merchant Navy officer
- minister of a recognised religion (including Christian Science)
- nurse (RGN and RMN)
- officer of the armed services
- optician

- paralegal (certified paralegal, qualified paralegal, or associate member of the Institute of Paralegals)
- person with honours (an OBE or MBE, for example)
- pharmacist
- photographer (professional)
- police officer
- Post Office official
- president/secretary of a recognised organisation
- Salvation Army officer
- social worker
- solicitor
- surveyor
- teacher, lecturer
- trade union officer
- travel agent (qualified)
- valuer or auctioneer (fellows and associate members of the incorporated society)
- Warrant Officers and Chief Petty Officers