



Probate

A guide to services and fees

Applying for the grant, collecting and distributing the assets

We anticipate that this will involve between 8 and 20 hours work and we will handle the full process for you.

Our charges are calculated on the basis of the work done in relation to the matter and are based on an hourly rate or rates for the fee earners involved.

Current hourly rates vary between £130 and £285 per hour, depending on the experience and qualifications of the fee earners(s) and we aim to ensure that your matter is dealt with at all times by a solicitor or paralegal with the appropriate level of expertise.

Typically, the total costs are estimated at between £2,000 and £5,000 plus VAT and disbursements (see below). However, the exact cost will depend on the individual circumstances of the matter. For example, if there is one beneficiary and no property, costs will be at the lower end of the range; if there are multiple beneficiaries, a property and multiple bank accounts, costs will be at the higher end.

This estimate is for estates where:

- There is a valid Will
- There is no more than one property
- There are accounts with no more than 4 banks or building societies
- There are no other intangible assets
- There are between 1 and 8 beneficiaries
- There are no disputes between beneficiaries on division of assets - if disputes arise, this is likely to lead to an increase in costs
- There is no inheritance tax payable and the executors do not need to submit a full Inheritance Tax Account to HMRC
- No claims are made against the estate



Disbursements

These are expenses payable to third parties which are additional to our fees and are likely to include:

- Probate application fee – currently £155 plus 50p for each sealed official copy of the Grant of probate
- Swearing of the executors oath - £7 per executor
- Bankruptcy only Land Charges Department searches - £2 per beneficiary (optional)
- Notice in the London Gazette – to help protect against unexpected claims from unknown creditors - £74.58 (optional)
- Notice in Local newspaper – to help protect against unexpected claims from unknown creditors e.g. Hereford Times £78.40; Brecon and Radnor £63.60 (optional)
- Smartsearch verification of identity for client(s) £2.80 plus VAT per name

We arrange payment of these expenses on your behalf to ensure a smoother process.

Potential additional costs

If there is no Will or the estate consists of any shareholdings, stocks or bonds there are likely to be additional costs that could range significantly depending on the estate and how it is to be dealt with. We shall be happy to provide you with a more accurate quote once we have more information as to what is involved.

Please note that dealing with the sale or transfer of any property within the estate is not included and will be charged for separately.

How long will it take?

On average, estates that fall within this range are dealt with within 6 to 8 months. Typically, obtaining the grant of probate takes 12 to 16 weeks. Collecting assets then follows, which can take between 6 to 8 weeks, or longer if there is a property to sell. Once this has been done, we prepare estate accounts for approval and can distribute the assets.

N.B. Figures and fees quoted are correct as at October 2018, but are liable to revision.



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