



Price and Service Information

Wills and Probate

Introduction

As part of our professional rules, we aim to ensure that anyone wishing to use our services has the information they need to make an informed choice of legal services provider, including understanding what the costs may be.

Obtaining a Grant of Representation and dealing with an administration of an estate can be complicated; it usually takes several months and complex cases can take over a year to ensure everything is done properly. Every estate is different, and so it can be very hard to quantify probate costs.

The work can vary from very straightforward estates with only one or two small value assets and one beneficiary, to complicated estates where there is inheritance tax to pay, multiple beneficiaries and assets held with numerous organisations as well as property and land to sell or transfer. However, to assist our clients, we have set out below an indication of the likely costs involved in probate and administration of estate matters along with an indication of the potential timescales.

Full Estate Administration: Applying for the grant, collecting and distributing the assets

What the service includes

We will:

- Provide you with a dedicated and experienced probate solicitor to work on your matter
- Identify the legally appointed executors or administrators and beneficiaries
- Accurately identify the type of Probate application you will require
- Obtain the relevant documents required to make the application and liaise with all relevant organisations
- Complete the Probate Application and the relevant HMRC forms
- Draft a Statement of Truth for you to sign
- Make the application to the Probate Registry on your behalf
- Obtain Grant of Probate and office copies
- Deal with closure of accounts, collect in estate funds and pay any liabilities
- Prepare a final estate account and distribute the estate to the beneficiaries

Anticipated charges and expenses

As stated earlier, it is difficult to be precise about the anticipated costs as the exact cost will depend on the individual circumstances of the matter. Therefore, we have set out below the estimated costs of a typical, straightforward transaction. For this example, we have assumed:

- There is a valid will
- The executors are lay executors
- There is no more than one property
- There are no more than 2 bank or building society accounts
- There are no other intangible assets
- There are no more than 4 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 (IHT) payable, and the executors do not need to submit a full account to HMRC
- There are no claims made against the estate

Administration of estates work is normally charged on a time spent basis.

We anticipate that probate matters where we are assisting with the administration of the estate will take between 5 and 20 hours of work at £242.00 per hour (excl. VAT). We estimate that our fees for this type of matter will be in the region of:

Our fees	£2,000 - £8,000	excl. VAT
VAT at 20%:	£400 - £1,600	
Total	£2,400 - £9,600	+ disbursements (see below)

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 and may even exceed the above estimate.

Disbursements

Disbursements are costs related to your matter that are payable to third parties, such as court fees. We handle the payment of the disbursements on your behalf to ensure a smoother process. Disbursements in addition to the above fees include:

Description	Typical costs
Probate application fee	£300.00 (No VAT)
Office copies of the Grant of Probate	£1.50 per copy (No VAT)
Bankruptcy search fee	£7.00 per beneficiary (No VAT)
Official Copy Entries from HM Land Registry	£7.00 (No VAT)
Electronic ID Check	£6.25 (Plus VAT)
Bank Transfer Fee	£35.00 (plus VAT)

Examples of when there would be potential additional costs (this list is not exhaustive)

- No valid will
- Shareholdings (stocks and bonds)
- Dealing with the sale or transfer of any property
- Trusts
- Overseas assets

There are likely to be additional costs that could range significantly depending on the estate and how it is to be dealt with. We can give you a more accurate quote once we have more information.

How long will this take?

On average, estates that fall within this range are dealt with within 9-12 months. Should you decide to wait before distributing in case any claims may arise this will increase to between 12-18 months. Typically, obtaining the grant of probate takes 3-6 month. Collecting assets then follows, which can take between 3-6 months. Once this has been done, we can distribute the assets, which normally takes 4-8 weeks. The exact time will depend on the individual circumstances of the matter.

Application for Grant of Probate only

What the service includes

We can help you through this difficult process by obtaining the Grant of Probate on your behalf. If you are happy to gather together information to establish the value of the estate and deal with the distribution of the estate without our assistance and merely need assistance in applying for the Grant we offer a fixed fee service.

We will:

- Provide you with a dedicated and experienced probate solicitor to work on your matter
- Identify the legally appointed executors or administrators and beneficiaries
- Accurately identify the type of Probate application you will require
- Obtain the relevant documents required to make the application
- Complete the Probate Application and the relevant HMRC forms
- Draft a Statement of Truth for you to sign
- Make the application to the Probate Registry on your behalf
- Obtain the Grant of Probate and securely send copies to you

Anticipated charges and expenses

We will normally undertake this work on a fixed fee basis. Our typical costs are shown below:

Fixed fee:	£1000.00	excl. VAT
VAT at 20%:	£200.00	
Total	£1,200.00	+ disbursements (see below)

The above fees assume that we are instructed to seek Grant of Probate only, that there is no inheritance tax to pay and the short IHT205 form can be used. It also assumes that all financial information is supplied by the Executor(s).

Disbursements

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Electronic ID Check	£6.25 (Plus VAT)
Bank Transfer Fee	£35.00 (plus VAT)

On average, estates that fall within this range are dealt with within 2-3 months. Typically, obtaining the grant of probate takes 6-8 weeks once you have provided the relevant information to us.

Wills

Type	Costs
Single Person Will	From £350.00 (+ £70.00 VAT at 20%)
"Mirror" Wills (married/partners)	From £550.00 (+ £110.00 VAT at 20%)
Protective Property Trust Wills (to include dealing with a Notice of Severance)	From £550.00 (+ £110.00 VAT at 20%)

Lasting Power of Attorney

Type	Costs
Property and Financial Affairs	£350.00 (+ £70.00 VAT at 20%)
Health and Welfare	£350.00 (+ £70.00 VAT at 20%)
Separate Registration Fee Payable	£82.00 (remission possible depending on income)

If any of the above are home visits – extra charges may incur