

Probate

Applying for the grant, collecting and distributing the assets

We anticipate this will take between 25 and 40 hours work and if, for example, the work is carried out by our partner, Neysan Valente, whose hourly rate is £225.00 plus VAT, our total estimated fees will be between £5,625.00 and £9,000.00 plus VAT. A more detailed breakdown is shown below.

We will handle the full process for you; this estimate is for estates where:

- There is a valid will
- There is no more than one property
- There are no intangible assets
- 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 account to HMRC
- There are no claims made against the estate

The exact cost will depend on the individual circumstances of the transaction. 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.

The hourly rates for individual lawyers vary according to experience and seniority and a specific quotation for the services of another member of staff is available on request.

Breakdown of costs:

- Legal fees £5,625.00 - £9,000.00
- VAT on legal fees £1,125.00 - £1,800.00
- Disbursements (not included in our fee):
 - Probate application fee of £155.00 (plus £1.00 per additional copy)
 - £7.00 swearing of the oath (per executor)
 - Bankruptcy-only land Charges Department searches (£2.00 per beneficiary)
 - Statutory Notice published in The London Gazette – protects against unexpected claims from unknown creditors – (approximately £85.00)

- Statutory Notice published in a local newspaper – this also helps to protect against unexpected claims – (approximately £80.00)

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.

As part of our fee 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 legal oath for you to swear
- Make the application to the Probate Court on your behalf
- Obtain the Probate and securely send two copies to you
- Collect and distribute all assets in the estate

Potential additional costs:

- If there is no will or the estate consists of any share holdings (stocks and bonds) there is 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.
- Dealing with the sale or transfer of any property in the estate is not included.

How long will this take?

On average, estates that fall within this range are concluded within 6-12 months. Typically, obtaining the grant of probate takes 8-12 weeks and collecting assets then follows, which can take between 8-12 weeks. Once this has been done, we can distribute the assets, which normally takes 8-12 weeks.