

Probate (Uncontested): Range of costs (with fixed fee for additional work) and fixed fee

Please note that we provide you with pricing guidance below so that information on costs and services is readily available to you. This is a general guide with examples and the fee costs bespoke to the circumstances of the case will be sent with our Client Care Letter and Terms of Business.

Applying for the Grant of Representation, collecting and distributing the assets (a non-inheritance tax paying estate)

Total costs estimated at £3,000 (£2,500 plus VAT) -£6,000 (£5,000 plus VAT)

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 includes both testate (Will made by the deceased) and intestate (no Will made by the deceased) estate administration.

We will handle the full process for you. Tis quote is for estates where:

- There is no more than one property.
- There are no more than 3 banks or building societies.
- There are no shareholdings.
- There are no other intangible assets.
- There are no more than 5 traceable beneficiaries living in the UK.
- There are no charitable 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 account to HMRC.
- There are no claims made against the estate.
- This firm is not an Executor in the Will.

Applying for the Grant of Representation, dealing with HM Revenue & Customs regarding inheritance tax, collecting and distributing the assets (an inheritance tax payable estate)

For further information on the calculation of inheritance tax, see:

www.gov.uk/guidance/hmrc-tools-and-calculations

Total costs estimated at £6,000 (£5,000 plus VAT) - £12,000 (£10,000 plus VAT)

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We will handle the full process for you. This quote is for estates where:

- There is no more than one property.
- There are no more than 3 banks or building societies.
- There are no shareholdings.
- There are no other intangible assets.
- There are no more than 5 traceable beneficiaries living in the UK.
- There are no charitable beneficiaries.
- There are no disputes between beneficiaries on division of assets. If disputes arise, this is likely to lead to an increase in costs.
- Inheritance tax is payable and the Executors are required to submit a full account to HM Revenue & Customs.
- No inheritance tax queries are raised by HM Revenue & Customs.
- The gross total of the estate does not exceed £750,000.
- There are no claims made against the estate.
- This firm is not an Executor in the Will.

Applying for the Grant of Representation only

We can help you through this difficult process by obtaining the Grant of Probate on your behalf.

How much does this service cost?

Total fixed fee of between £1,080 (£900 plus VAT) - £1,440 (£1,200 plus VAT).

This includes: obtaining the Grant of Representation only (inclusive of preparation and submission of the necessary probate application documentation).

Breakdown of costs:

Legal fees: £1,080 (£900 plus VAT) - £1,440 (£1,200 plus VAT).

As part of our fixed fee, we will:

- Provide you with a dedicated and experienced probate solicitor to work on your matter.
- Identify the legally appointed executors or administrators.
- 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.
- Prepare a Legal Statement for you to sign.
- Make the application to the Probate Court on your behalf.
- Obtain the probate and securely send copies to you.

On average, estates that fall within this range are dealt with within 3-5 months. Typically, obtaining the Grant of Probate takes 8-12 weeks.

Disbursements in addition to fees cited:

- Probate application fee of £526.00 plus £2.00 per additional copy.
- Bankruptcy only Land Charges Department searches (£6 per beneficiary).
- Post in *The London Gazette* – Protects against unexpected claims from unknown creditors. If requested only.
- Post in a local newspaper – This also helps to protect against unexpected claims. If requested only.
- Missing Will and/or missing beneficiary searches. If requested only.

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.

Potential additional costs

An array of matters may impact upon the fee estimate, including:

- If the estate consists of any shareholdings (stocks and bonds), there is likely to be additional costs (inclusive of stockbrokers' 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.

- If any additional copies of the Grant are required, they will cost £2.00 (1 per asset, usually).
- Dealing with the sale or transfer of any property in the estate is not included.
- If tax returns are required, the preparation of the same will be charged in addition.
- Unforeseen increased client correspondence and attendances.
- The extent and total value of the estate to be administered.
- Claims made against the estate from disappointed beneficiaries.
- Queries raised by HM Revenue & Customs regarding the valuations submitted and liaising with the District Valuer.

How long will this take?

We cannot be categorical at this early stage about the time it will take to complete the administration since that will depend upon the reaction of other persons involved. Assuming, however, that all the necessary persons cooperate in a timely fashion, it may be possible to apply for the necessary Grant of Probate/Letters of Administration within 3 months from now. Once the application has been received by the Probate Registry, the Grant is normally issued within about 8-12 weeks.

Please note that the issue of such a Grant does not mean that HM Revenue & Customs have accepted the values and liabilities declared to them. It can take many months for HM Revenue & Customs to respond/reach agreement on the values.

Assuming, however, that there are no complications of that type or any unexpected claims by third parties (which can cause very significant delays), it may be possible to complete the administration within 6-9 months of the receipt of the Grant of Probate/ Letters of Administration. Again, we stress that this does not represent a guarantee. As the matter develops, we will be able to “firm up” the expected timetable and will do that.

Further information sources:

www.legalchoices.org.uk

www.gov.uk/wills-probate-inheritance

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-revenue-customs