



## **Probate Fees and other information about our services**

We offer a range of fees to deal with uncontested probate matters where all of the assets are held in the UK. 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.

### **Dealing with a simple estate:**

We anticipate this process will take between 10 and 15 hours of work at £195 per hour, with our total fees estimated at £1,950 - £2,925 (+VAT).

As a guide, a simple estate usually has the following elements: -

- There is a valid will
- There is no more than one property
- There are no more than 5 bank or building society accounts
- There are no other intangible assets
- There are 1-5 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

### **Expenses**

There are expenses that will be incurred on your behalf and are payable in addition to our fees. Typically these include: -

- Probate application fee of £155.00

- Swearing of the oath £7.00 (per executor)
- Post in The London Gazette (this protects against unexpected claims from unknown creditors) and in a Local Newspaper (this also helps to protect against unexpected claims) £180.65 (+ VAT)

**Total typical expenses £350 (+ VAT where applicable)**

### **Potential additional costs and expenses**

- 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.
- If any additional copies of the grant are required, they will cost £0.50 (1 per asset usually).
- Dealing with the sale or transfer of any property in the estate is not included in our price.
- A financial asset search, if required, will cost £180.65.
- Inheritance Tax and other Taxes may be payable. We can advise you on this matter when we have the details of an individual estate.

### **How long will the work take?**

On average, estates that fall within this range are dealt with within 6-10 months. Typically, obtaining the grant of probate takes 6-8 weeks. Collecting assets then follows, which can take between 4-6 weeks. Once this has been done, we can distribute the assets, which normally takes 4-6 weeks.

### **As part of our service we will:**

- 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

As a guide only, the total fee for dealing with a simple estate will typically be between £1,950 and £2,925 plus typically £350 for expenses plus VAT.

### **Dealing with a medium complexity estate:**

A medium complexity estate will follow the same process and will incur the same expenses but the work will take longer to complete. We anticipate it will take between 20 and 30 hours work at £195 per hour, with our total fees estimated at £4,000 - £6,000 (+VAT). An estate of this type may include many more bank accounts, many more beneficiaries, shares and generally more complicated investments.

On average, estates that fall within this range are dealt with within 6-12 months. Typically, obtaining the grant of probate takes 8-12 weeks. Collecting assets then follows, which can take between 10-12 weeks. Once this has been done, we can distribute the assets, which normally takes 4-6 weeks.

### **Dealing with a complex estate:**

A complex estate will follow the same process and will incur the same expenses but the work will take longer to complete. We anticipate this will take between 80 and 100 hours work at £195 - £225 per hour (depending on the experience of the fee earner), with our total fees estimated at £15,000 to £20,000 (+VAT). (Please note that very complicated matters can exceed £20,000). An estate of this type may include complex matters such as agricultural land, complicated trusts and Inheritance Tax issues.

On average, estates that fall within this range are dealt with within 18-24 months. Typically, obtaining the grant of probate takes 24-30 weeks. Collecting assets then follows, which can take between 12-16 weeks. Once this has been done, we can distribute the assets, which normally takes 20-24 weeks.

**Please note that we do not provide any tax advice as part of this service and you should consult an accountant for such advice.**