

Our costs for obtaining probate and the collection and distribution of the deceased's assets

Dealing with the affairs of a deceased person is often more complicated and time consuming than people expect. Our specialist team can deal with as much or as little as you require in the course of the administration of an estate. The administration of an estate can be complicated by factors such as the payment of Inheritance Tax, missing beneficiaries, assets held abroad or in trust, executors who do not wish to act, Trusts, contested Wills & claims against an estate, and difficulties in establishing the estate assets and liabilities.

We will charge for the work carried out on the basis of our hourly rates which range from £120 plus VAT to £300 an hour (plus VAT at 20%) depending on the experience of the fee earner involved. Details of our team can be found [here](#). We will provide a fee estimate at the beginning of the work based on the number of hours we anticipate the work will take. We would usually have an initial meeting with you to obtain the relevant information and then provide a fee estimate. The fees' estimate will include the initial meeting.

Example fee estimate

As a guide the costs for obtaining probate and collecting and distributing assets in a straightforward estate may be between £2,530 and £6,725 (plus VAT at 20%) on the basis of an anticipation of 11 to 30 hours at an average hourly rate of £225 (plus VAT at 20%) .

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 four beneficiaries, a property and three bank accounts, costs will be at the higher end.

The above estimate of costs applies where:

- There is a valid will
- The executors are prepared to act
- There are no difficulties in establishing the assets and liabilities
- There is only one residential property. The cost of dealing with the sale or transfer of any property is not included
- There are no more than three bank or building society accounts
- The assets do not include shareholdings (stocks and bonds)
- There are no business or agricultural assets
- There are no more than five pecuniary legacies
- All assets are in the UK
- There are up to four residuary beneficiaries, who can be contacted easily
- We are not instructed to deal with the clearance or distribution of chattels (personal possessions)
- There are no life policies, pensions or death in service payments
- There are no disputes between beneficiaries on the division of assets. There is no Inheritance Tax payable and the executors do not need to submit an IHT400 to HMRC
- There are no claims made against the estate

In addition the following disbursements may be incurred (and are not included in the above estimate):

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.

- Probate application fee - £273 plus £1.50 for each additional copy of the Grant required (one per asset usually)
- Bankruptcy-only Land Charges Department searches - £2 per beneficiary
- Statutory advertisements in The London Gazette and a local newspaper, which protect against unexpected claims from unknown creditors - £200 to £300 (plus VAT at 20%)
- Certainty Will Search to confirm that the most recent will is being proved - £95 (plus VAT at 20%)
- A financial asset and liability search which helps to identify live, online and dormant accounts and includes a search of the Experian Unclaimed Assets Register, Companies House and Office of the Public Guardian searches - £215 (plus VAT at 20%)

How long will the work take?

It takes on average 6 to 12 months to deal with estates that fall within the above fee estimate. Typically, obtaining the grant of probate takes 12 to 16 weeks. Collecting assets then follows, which can take between 4 to 8 weeks. Once this has been done, we can distribute the assets and finalise the administration which can on average take up to 16 weeks.

As part of the above fee estimate we will:

- Provide you with a dedicated and experienced legal adviser 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 probate
- Collect and distribute all assets in the estate

Who will work on your case?

Typically, a solicitor, associate or a Partner will work on your case and they may be assisted by a paralegal, a trainee solicitor or a solicitor apprentice. Supervision of the work will be undertaken by a Partner in the Probate and Estate Administration team.

For further details of the experience and qualifications of the individuals who may work on your case, please [click here](#).