

Probate and Estate Administration Pricing



Hay & Kilner

Here for *you*

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Hay & Kilner's Private Client team is not only the largest in the North East, but also boasts that our solicitors collectively have years of experience, enabling us to advise on all aspects of estate administration. Several members of the team are qualified by the global professional body STEP, as well as part of The Lifetime Lawyers Association and The Agricultural Law Association, with all the Private Client team also being qualified Dementia Friends.

We provide comprehensive, tailored legal advice to ensure our clients receive the best legal advice possible, whilst being transparent about our pricing structure.

As a guide, our professional costs for obtaining probate and collecting and distributing assets in a straightforward estate will likely range from £3,360 (£2,800 plus £560 VAT) to £10,500 (£8,750 plus £1,750 VAT) plus disbursements. However, our costs will depend on the specific circumstances.

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, together with difficulties in establishing the estate assets and liabilities.

Example case study

In the following case study, where the below factors apply:

- There is a valid Will and the executors are prepared to act
- There are no difficulties in establishing the assets and liabilities and all assets are in the UK
- 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
- There are no shareholdings (listed stocks and bonds)
- There are no business or agricultural assets
- There are up to three pecuniary legacies

- There are up to two residuary beneficiaries, who can be identified and contacted
- There are no life policies, pensions or death in service payments
- There are no disputes between beneficiaries on the division of assets or claims made against the estate (this can lead to increased costs)
- There is no Inheritance Tax payable and the executors do not need to submit an IHT400 to HMRC

Our estimate of costs would be £3,360 (£2,800 plus £560 VAT) plus disbursements. However, the exact costs will depend upon your circumstances.

Our hourly rates

During the administration of an estate, we will charge for the work carried out on an hourly rate basis, as follows:

Partner	£350 per hour plus £70 VAT (£420 incl. VAT)
Senior Associate	£250 per hour plus £50 VAT (£300 incl. VAT)
Associate	£230 per hour plus £46 VAT (£276 incl. VAT)
Solicitor (2 years + PQE)	£195 per hour plus £39 VAT (£234 incl. VAT)
Solicitor (up to 2 years PQE)	£170 per hour plus £34 VAT (£204 incl. VAT)
Trainee	£135 per hour plus £27 VAT (£162 incl. VAT)
Paralegal	£125 per hour plus £25 VAT (£150 incl. VAT)

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 time spent at the initial meeting.

As part of the above fee estimate we will:

- Provide you with a dedicated and experienced legal adviser to work on your matter
- Take your instructions at an initial meeting and provide you with initial advice
- Identify the legally appointed executors and beneficiaries
- Obtain valuations of the assets and liabilities at the date of death
- Accurately identify the type of probate application you will require
- Prepare a draft Probate Bundle for your consideration
- Send final documents to you to sign
- Submit the application for Probate
- Obtain the Grant and provide you with copies (if requested)
- Collect and distribute all assets in the estate

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.

The following disbursements may be incurred and are charged in addition to our fee estimate explained above:

- Probate application fee - £300 plus £1.50 for each additional copy of the Grant required (one per asset usually)
- Bankruptcy-only (Land Charges Department) search - £2 per beneficiary
- Statutory advertisements in The London Gazette and a local newspaper, which protect against unexpected claims from unknown creditors - £250 to £400 (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 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.

The timescales can also be affected by the cooperation of third parties, such as other professionals and the executors.

Factors that will make an estate administration more complex

There are a number of factors which can make an estate administration more complex. Examples of more complex factors include:

- Registering the death
- Completing the “Tell Us Once” Service
- Arranging for property insurance to be put in place
- Dealing with personal possessions
- The number of assets and liabilities in an estate (the more assets in an estate, the more complicated this can become)
- Shareholdings and investments
- Business Property
- Agricultural Property
- Multiple legatees and beneficiaries (with additional complexity if they are difficult to locate)
- Inheritance Tax and preparing a full IHT400 form
- Lifetime gifts
- Trusts, either already in existence that have been created by the deceased during their Lifetime or of which they are a beneficiary, or the creation under the terms of the Will or intestacy rules
- Claims for loss relief
- Income and Capital Gains Tax considerations for the period of administration

Additional services

Our team will provide you with a bespoke quotation at the outset of the matter, but our firm can offer additional services which are not included in the costs above:

- Preparing Deeds of Variation
- Preparing Deeds of Appointment for Will Trusts
- Acting in the sale, transfer or assent of a property

Your Private Client Team

We always ensure that all our Private Client team are supported and supervised by a Partner in our team, regardless of who is assisting you. For further details of the experience and qualifications of the individuals who may work on your case, [please click here](#).

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