

Probate Price Guide

The legal work involved in dealing with the administration of an estate will include giving advice to the executors, checking if there is a valid Will, identifying all the property and assets, valuing these and then making a tax return to HMRC. We would then apply to the Probate Registry for a Grant of Probate, pay any Inheritance Tax that's due, collect in the estate's assets (for example money from the sale of the person's property, pay off any debts, prepare a record (called "estate accounts" of how any property money or possessions are to be split, and then pass the estate by distributing the money and assets to the people named in the Will.

The exact cost will depend on the individual circumstances of the matter, but it may be helpful for us to give an overview of the likely cost for dealing with the full process (although we can deal with particular aspects for you alone).

We anticipate that, for applying for the Grant, collecting and distributing the assets our total costs will be between £1500 and £2500 plus 20% VAT. For details as to how we calculate our costs, please see our Client Guide.

This is obviously a broad estimate; we will always give you a more detailed one in the event that you ask us to act for you. For example, if the estate is a straightforward one, and there is only one beneficiary and no property, costs will be at the lower end of the range. If there are multiple beneficiaries, properties or bank accounts then our fees will be at the higher end.

This estimate is for estimates where;

- There is a valid Will
- There is no more than one property
- There are no more than one bank or building society account
- There are no other intangible assets
- There is one beneficiaries
- There are no disputes between beneficiaries over the assets
- 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 (or disbursements) included in this fee are:

- Probate application fee of £300.00 plus £1.50 for every extra copy
- Bankruptcy only Land Charges Department searches (£6.00 per beneficiary)
- To Post in The London Gazette (protects against unexpected claims from unknown creditors) and to Post in a Local Newspaper (also helps protect against claims) normally in the region of £350 to £450 plus 20% VAT.

Disbursements are costs related to your matter which are payable to third parties, such as court fees. We handle the payment of the disbursements on your behalf.

Potential Additional Costs

- If there is no Will or the estate consists of any shareholdings (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
- Dealing with the sale or transfer of any property within the estate is not included.

How long will this take?

On average, the estates that fall within this range are dealt with within three to four months. Typically, obtaining the Grant of Probate can take twelve weeks after submitting the application to the Probate Registry, Although in practice if the application is simple and straightforward, it will not take as long. Collecting the assets of the Estate can take between eight to twelve weeks. Once this has been done, we can distribute the assets which normally takes four to six weeks.