

Probate work 2021

Applying for a grant of probate and collecting and distributing the assets

We anticipate this will take between 13 and 30 hours work at £200 per hour plus VAT at 20% plus disbursements. Total costs estimated at £3500 to 7600.

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 and other assets, costs will be at the higher end.

We will handle the full process for you. Our estimate is for estates where:

- There is a valid will
- There is no more than one property
- There are no more than 4 bank or building society accounts
- There are no other intangible assets
- There are 1 or 2 beneficiaries
- There are no disputes between beneficiaries on division of assets. If disputes arise this is very likely to lead to a substantial 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

Disbursements included in this fee:

- Probate application fee of £273.00
- £7 Swearing of the oath (per executor)
- Bankruptcy-only Land Charges Department searches (£3 per beneficiary)
- £120 Post in The London Gazette – Protects against unexpected claims from unknown creditors.
- £100.00 Post in a Local Newspaper – This also helps to protect against unexpected claims.

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

- 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 estimate once we have more information.
- If any additional copies of the grant are required, they will cost £1.50 each (1 per asset usually).

- Dealing with the sale or transfer of any property in the estate is not included.
- Disputes between beneficiaries or with dependants who have not inherited anything
- Disputes with estate creditors
- Disputes with HMRC about tax due from the estate
- Disputes about the validity of a will
- If there is no will

How long will this take?

On average, estates that fall within this range are dealt with within 12-18 months as there are currently very significant delays at the Probate Registry. Typically, obtaining the grant of probate takes 52 weeks. Collecting assets then follows, which can take between 10-15 weeks. Once this has been done, we can distribute the assets, which normally takes 4-8 weeks.

Probate matters at the firm are dealt with by one of the partners who each have in excess of 20 years experience dealing with probate