

PROBATE SERVICES

We are here to support bereaved individuals and families. We will explain the probate process to you and expertly guide you through the process in the comfort that your matter is being dealt with quickly and efficiently.

Our fees are transparent and there will never be any hidden charges. Our legal fees below provide an estimate of the work required to complete the process.

(a) Obtaining a grant of Probate

We anticipate this will take between 3 and 4 hours at £250 per hour plus VAT (£300), Total costs are typically in a range of £750 - £950 plus VAT (£900 - £1140) where the estate is straightforward.

The cost will increase if the estate is more complicated, for example there are more than one or two bank or building society accounts, and more intangible assets from whom information is required to be obtained. In this case the cost is more likely to be in the order of £1,500 plus VAT (£1800).

In addition to our fees there are fixed costs payable to the Probate Registry, these are currently £155, plus £1.50 for each additional copy of the Grant required.

(b) Applying for the grant, collecting and distributing the assets

If you wish us to deal with the complete administration, collecting the assets and distributing them to the beneficiaries, our charges are typically between 1-3% of the gross estate. In every case we will endeavour to agree a fixed fee with the executors.

The exact cost will depend on the individual circumstances of the matter and the complexity 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, or it is necessary to deal with H M Revenue and Customs regarding Inheritance Tax and submit a full account to them, costs will be at the higher end.

In addition, if:

- there are disputes between beneficiaries on division of assets; or;
- there are claims made against the estate

this is likely to lead to an increase in costs. We would always discuss and agree in the increase in costs before carrying out the additional work

Additional costs

In addition to our fees, there are fixed costs (known as disbursements) which will be payable:

- Onboarding fee (checking client identity and AML checks): £15 plus VAT (£18) per client
- Probate application fee of £155, plus £1.50 for each additional copy of the Grant required;
- Bankruptcy-only Land Charges Department searches (£2 plus VAT per beneficiary);
- Posts in The London Gazette and local newspapers from £100 plus VAT – this protects against unexpected claims from unknown creditors. Estimate only as not always required.

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 further costs

- If there is no will or the estate consists of any share holdings (stocks and bonds) there are 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.
- Dealing with the sale or transfer of any property in the estate is not included.

How long will this take?

Typically, obtaining the grant of probate takes 8-12 weeks. Collecting assets then follows, which can take between 4-12 weeks. Once this has been done, we can distribute the assets, which normally takes 4-8 weeks.

Who will be undertaking the work?

The work will be undertaken by Graham Lawrence who is a Consultant Legal Executive with at least 24 years' experience and who is ultimately supervised by the Directors of the firm Carly Jermyn and Paula Hebbard who have over 10 years legal experience.