

SRA PRICE TRANSPARENCY INFORMATION

PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES

A. HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Some estates will be more complex than others. In a straightforward estate, i.e., where there is a Will, not many assets, a house and no disputes or issues, the costs will be less than in a more complex estate where there may be disputed assets, overseas assets, inheritance tax issues, disputes amongst beneficiaries or other issues.

Costs in a straightforward Estate

The costs up to the stage of the Grant of probate are in the region of £1,000.00 plus vat (total £1,200.00) This is based on an estimate of 4 to 5 hours work at £225.00 plus vat per hour.

After Grant of Probate has been issued, the cost of calling in the assets, discharging the liabilities and distributing the estate, is in the region of a further £1,800.00 plus vat totalling £2,160.00. This is based on an estimate of 6 to 8 hours work at £225.00 plus vat per hour.

In addition, there will be some standard disbursements (which do not attract VAT)

- office copies of land/property = £7.00
- probate registry fee = £300.00 plus £16.00 for additional copies
- copy death certificate fee = £12.50

Therefore, providing there are no complications or issues, the overall costs of administering a straightforward estate should not exceed £4,000.00 without us discussing costs further with you.

Costs in a more complex Estate

The costs will depend upon the complexity of the estate. Generally, the costs of a more complex Estate up to Grant of Probate can range from £2,000.00 plus vat (total £2,400.00) up to £5,000.00 plus vat (total £6,000.00) depending upon the number of assets, issues, and complexities.

After Grant of Probate has been issued, the cost of calling in the assets, discharging the liabilities and distributing the estate, again depending upon the number of assets and any issues or complexities can range from £3,000.00 plus vat (total £3,600) up to £6,000.00 plus vat (total £7,200.00) for very complex matters.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE? – KEY STAGES AND TIMESCALES

Key stages

- Take instructions and gather information
- Write to relevant institutions to obtain details/valuations of assets & liabilities
- Prepare draft estate account
- Complete and submit any inheritance tax forms
- Apply for Grant of Representation
- Collect assets
- Discharge liabilities
- Consider any capital gains or income tax issues
- Prepare final estate account for approval

- Distribute the estate

Timescale

On average, a straightforward estate will take no more than 9 months to complete. However, there are sometimes backlogs and delays at the Probate Registry which would increase the timescale.

More complex Estates should take no more than 18 months to 2 years to conclude, but numerous issues or any issues leading to litigation can extend that timescale.

B. WHO WILL BE DEALING WITH MY CASE? (these need updating but not sure what to put).

Victoria Handley – Solicitor

Susan is a Solicitor and Partner in the firm. She qualified as a Legal Executive in 1996 and as a Solicitor in 2001. She became a Partner in 2005. She has been the Supervising Partner for the Probate Department for over 20 years and has experience in dealing with all kinds of Estate Administration and Wills.

Callum Jones – Solicitor, Partner

Callum will soon qualify as a Solicitor. He has over 4 years' experience assisting in the Probate and Private client department and specialised in probate and private client as part of his solicitors' exams.

Evan Hurlow – Trainee Solicitor

Evan joined the probate and private client department in September 2022 after completing his law degree. He has made swift progress and manages a daily caseload under the supervision of Susan Hollywood.