

## **Probate**

We can obtain the Grant of Probate (where there is a Will) or Grant of Letters of Administration (where there is no Will) on a fixed fee basis - the personal representative will provide the details of the estate and we will complete and submit the application.

There are exceptions to the information below *in which case we will discuss this with you before proceeding* but generally the following costs apply:-

- Where the gross value of the estate does not exceed £325,000.00  
£1,500.00 plus VAT
- Where the gross value of the estate exceeds £325,000.00 but does not exceed £650,000.00 and there is a transferable Nil Rate Band from a pre-deceased spouse  
£2,000.00 plus VAT
- Where the gross value of the estate exceeds £325,000.00 and there is no transferable Nil Rate Band from a pre-deceased spouse  
£2,750.00 plus VAT
- Where the gross value of the estate exceeds both the individual's £325,000.00 and the Nil Rate Band from a pre-deceased spouse but the residence Nil rate band can be applied  
£3,000.00
- Where the gross value of the estate exceeds both the individual's £325,000.00 and the Nil Rate Band from a pre-deceased spouse but the residence Nil rate band can be applied  
£3,250.00 plus VAT
- Where the gross value of the estate exceeds both the individual's £325,000.00 and the Nil Rate Band from a pre-deceased spouse but the residence Nil rate band and transferable residence Nil Rate Band can be applied  
£3,500.00 plus VAT

With all cases, the following disbursements will apply:-

- Court Fee £300.00
- Each official copy of the Grant required £1.50

## **Administration of an Estate**

We can undertake the whole of the administration of the estate, which includes collating the information relating to the estate, making the application for the Grant, calling in the assets and distributing them in accordance with the Will or the Intestacy Provisions (where there is no Will) as the case may be. This work is carried out on an hourly rate. 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, costs will be at the higher end.

### **Some Examples:-**

- There is no more than one property
- There are no more than 5 bank or building society accounts
- There are no other intangible assets
- There are 1-5 beneficiaries

- There are no disputes between beneficiaries on division of assets or claims made against the estate; if disputes arise this is likely to lead to an increase in costs and would be dealt with as a separate litigation matter
- The Executors deal with the usual utilities (Council Tax, Insurance, Gas, Electric, Telephone and Water)

This is likely to attract costs of £4,000.00 - £5,500.00 plus VAT

- As above but we deal with the usual utilities (Council Tax, Insurance, Gas, Electric, Telephone and Water)

This is likely to attract costs of £5,000.00 - £6,500.00 plus VAT

- As above but more assets - such as pensions, shareholdings, more bank accounts and investments
- There are more than 5 beneficiaries

This is likely to attract costs of £6,000.00 - £7,500.00 plus VAT

- As above but with any unusual elements, or property abroad, business assets, multiple properties or multiple beneficiaries such as a complex intestacy or missing beneficiaries; or
- Where the Partners of Moss and Coleman are appointed as Executors and are required to attend personally to non-legal work (such as visiting the property, registering the death, attending to funeral arrangements)

These circumstances will attract costs at the highest end of the scale and would on average range at £7,000.00 - £10,000.00 plus VAT

In all cases, disbursements will be payable, this list is not exhaustive and not all disbursements will be required:-

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| • Court Fee   | £300.00            |
| • Each official copy of the Grant   | £1.50              |
| • Bankruptcy Searches against beneficiaries (per name)  | £6.00              |
| • Copies of Deeds per document  | £7.00              |
| • Certainty Search  | £200.00 plus VAT   |
| • Section 27 Creditor Notice (advert in London Gazette and a newspaper local to the deceased) | £200.00 - £350.00* |

*\* estimated – costs will vary depending on the costs of the local newspaper*

Please note that dealing with a property will not be included and a sale or transfer will be dealt with and charged separately (please see our conveyancing costs for an estimate of additional fees)

## Time Scales

On average, dealing with the administration of an estate that falls in the first three examples above will generally take 12-18 months; estates with more complicated matters will take longer, for example:-

- If there is a non standard conveyancing matter involved
- Claims by DWP in the case of overpaid benefits
- Issues regarding validity pertaining to the Will
- If there is no Will, the instruction of a genealogist to ascertain and locate beneficiaries
- Missing beneficiaries that need to be located
- A claim under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1971

**Who will undertake your work?**

You will be advised when we take on your work who will deal with the matter within the firm. All matters in the Wills and Probate department are undertaken under the supervision of Gill Botwright.

Work may be undertaken by Gill Botwright, Nicola Moore, Emmi McGill and Keely Chalker and Chloe Bonner; further details of each fee earner and their experience can be found on our “meet the team” page.

Hourly charging rates of the fee earners range between £200.00 - £360.00 plus VAT.