

PROBATE (2025)

Work covered	Our fees	Other expenses
Probate Application – straightforward will or intestacy: giving advice and collating information about the estate; making online probate application; generating and printing Legal Statement and arranging for signature; submitting Legal Statement, Will &c. to the Probate Registry	£650 plus VAT	Probate Court fee: £300.00 Fee for official copies of Probate/Letters of Administration: 1.50p each NOTE ON VAT: The Court fees in this column do not carry a charge to VAT.
Probate Application for estates valued at more than £325,000: giving advice and collating information about the estate; preparing Inland Revenue Return IHT400 with all necessary schedules; obtaining from you all documents required to support the IHT400 (such as valuations and business trading accounts); submitting IHT400 to HMRC and obtaining acknowledgement (Form IHT421); making online probate application; generating and printing Legal Statement and arranging for signature; submitting Legal Statement, Will &c. to the Probate Registry	From £1,300 plus VAT depending on the value of the estate and the complexity of the issues arising	Probate Court fee: £300.00 Fee for official copies of Probate/Letters of Administration: 1.50p each Valuation fees: from £200 Accountants fees (e.g. for preparation of business or partnership accounts to date of death): £TBA NOTE ON VAT: Valuations and accountancy fees would usually carry a charge to VAT
Administration of Estate after Probate: Registering the Probate/Letters of Administration with banks and institutions; preparing account closure forms; closing accounts; transferring and selling stocks and shares; dealing with all correspondence from HMRC; paying funeral and other accounts; receiving funds into our clients' account; preparing estate accounts and getting them approved; distributing the estate; arranging	Charged on a time basis at the current hourly rate of £220 plus VAT. All time expended is carefully recorded. Invoices will be sent at regular intervals (usually every month) which will contain full details of all time spent on the case during the billing period.	London Gazette Notice: see scale of fees: https://www.thegazette.co.uk/place-notice/pricing Lost Share Certificate Indemnities: £TBA Stockbrokers' fees: £TBA NOTE ON VAT:

for Trustee Act notices (where necessary); finalising administration of estate		The above charges would usually carry a charge to VAT
---	--	--



PROBATE – what does this involve?

When a bereavement happens it is the most difficult of times and there seems to be so much to do. It is sensible to seek advice at an early stage as this can save you much stress and, in the long run, expense.

Where there is a Will you will need to consider whether you need to take the formal step of proving that Will.

Where there is no Will you will need to consider whether to apply for Letters of Administration. We can help you to make this important decision and give you guidance as to what needs to be done and how long it will take.

Our fees for Applying for the Probate or Letters of Administration, collecting and distributing the assets are set out in our website, which is updated from time to time. The fees are based on a reasonable estimate of the time these steps normally take. The exact cost will depend on the individual circumstances of the matter. For example, if there is one beneficiary and no property, costs may be lower. If there are numerous beneficiaries, a property and numerous bank accounts, costs may be higher.

We will handle the full process for you. Our fees are based on the assumption that:

- There is a valid Will
- There is no more than one property
- There are no more than 3 bank or building society accounts
- There are no other intangible assets
- There are 2 to 6 beneficiaries
- There are no disputes between beneficiaries on division of assets. If disputes arise this is likely to lead to an increase in costs
- There is no inheritance tax payable and the executors do not need to submit a full IHT400 account to HMRC
- There are no legal claims or challenges made against the estate

The current cost of disbursements can be found on our website and should be up to date when you read this. Potential additional costs include:

- 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 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?

On average, estates that fall within this range are dealt with within 6 to 8 months. Typically, obtaining the grant of probate takes up to 10 weeks. Collecting in the assets then follows and once this has all been done, we can prepare final accounts, distribute the assets and finalise the administration. If this is delayed for any reason, we can arrange for interim distributions to be made at a small extra cost. Please bear in mind that we can only control the steps that we take and cannot dictate how soon third parties deal with correspondence. In our experience, if a claim is made against the estate by the Department of Work and Pensions, dealing with the claim can take 6 to 12 months.

As part of our fee we will:

- Provide you with a dedicated and experienced probate solicitor to work on your matter
- Identify the legally appointed executors or administrators and beneficiaries
- Accurately identify the type of Probate application you will require
- Obtain the relevant documents required to make the application
- Complete the Probate Application and the relevant HMRC forms
- Draft a legal oath for you to swear
- Make the application to the Probate Court on your behalf
- Obtain the Probate and securely send two copies to you
- Collect all assets in the estate
- Prepare final accounts and distribute the estate