



Probate Costs

Grant of Probate Only

Our fees for assisting with obtaining the Grant of Probate only on behalf of an estate are as follows:

- Without Submission of an IHT400 - £950 + VAT
- With Submission of an IHT400 - £1,500 + VAT

As part of this fee, we will:

- explain the terms of the Will to the Executor(s)
- ascertain the information required for the Grant of Probate application
- draft the relevant IHT forms where relevant
- complete the online or paper application, including the Legal Statement, to submit to the Probate Registry
- ensure all documents for the application are explained to the Executor(s) and accurately executed by them
- submit the IHT400 to HMRC where relevant
- submit the Grant of Probate application to the Probate Registry.

Please note that the above fees may alter depending on the complexity of the estate, and whether any additional advice or work is required. Such fees would be based on the relevant lawyer's hourly rate (ranging from £190 - £280 + VAT) and will be confirmed by the lawyer where relevant.

Full Administration of Estate

Each estate will differ, and therefore the costs incurred on an individual estate will depend on specific circumstances. Before proceeding with the administration of an estate, we would meet with the Executor(s) to discuss the circumstances and will be able to provide an initial cost estimate based on the information given to us.

Such costs will generally be incurred on an hourly rate basis. As such, whenever work is completed on a matter, the relevant lawyer will record their time against their hourly rate, the range of which is referred above. It is occasionally the case we may need to revise our initial estimate, for example if a matter is more complex than initially thought. If this is the case, the relevant lawyer will update the Executor(s) accordingly.

As a guide, a more straightforward estate, where the following may apply, costs would be in the region of £3,000 - £4,000 + VAT:

- the deceased held a valid Will
- the deceased held no property
- the deceased held assets with up to 3 companies, which are held in the UK
- up to 2 beneficiaries are named in the Will
- the estate is not liable for Inheritance Tax.

As a guide for a more complex estate, where the following may apply, costs would be in the region of £6,000 - £8,000 + VAT:

- the deceased held a valid Will
- the deceased owned up to 2 properties
- the deceased held assets with up to 10 companies, which are held in the UK
- up to 10 beneficiaries are named in the Will
- the estate is liable for Inheritance Tax.

Please note that the above examples are simply a guide, and costs may differ given the circumstances of each estate. Particularly where there may be a dispute or claim made against the estate.

When acting in relation to the full administration of an estate we would deal with all aspects of the estate on behalf of the Executor(s). As part of this we will:

- explain the terms of the Will to the Executor(s)
- ascertain the information required for the Grant of Probate application and IHT400, where relevant
- identify and correspond with all companies where assets, liabilities and utilities were held, including ascertaining date of death balances for such accounts
- obtain valuations for any estate property, where relevant
- correspond with HMRC, and submit any relevant returns, in relation to the Income Tax affairs of the deceased up to the date of death
- prepare the IHT400, submitting to HMRC, claim any necessary reliefs and exemptions, and arrange for any Inheritance Tax to be settled, where relevant
- complete the online or paper Grant of Probate application, including the Legal Statement, to submit to the Probate Registry
- ensure all documents for the application are explained to the Executor(s) and accurately executed by them, before submitting to the Probate Registry
- gather all of the estate assets
- settling any debts and liabilities of the estate
- prepare the Estate Accounts for approval by the Executor(s), and to account to the beneficiaries
- correspond with HMRC, and submit any relevant returns, in relation to the Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax position for the estate's administration period
- distributing the estate to the beneficiaries
- correspond with the Executor(s) throughout.

Disbursements & Other Fees

In addition to the fees detailed above, the following disbursements and other fees may need to be paid, depending on the circumstances:

- Probate Fee - £273.00 (plus £1.50 for each office copy of the Grant of Probate)
- Bankruptcy Searches - £3.00 per beneficiary
- Title Register - £3.00 per property
- Statutory Notice Fees
- Accountancy Fees
- Estate Agent Fees
- Conveyancing Fees
- Asset Search Fee
- Tracing Missing Beneficiary Fees.

We will handle the payment of the disbursements on the Executor(s) behalf to ensure a smoother process.

Timeframe

Grant of Probate Only

Where we are simply assisting with obtaining the Grant of Probate, it can often take between 4 and 8 weeks to obtain all of the information required to prepare the application.

Thereafter, once the application is prepared, signed and submitted to the Probate Registry, it can take up to 16 weeks for the Grant to be issued.

Full Administration of Estate

As stated above, each estate will differ in how long it will take to finalise. Based on the complexity of the given estate.

It would often take between 4 and 8 weeks to obtain all the information required to prepare the application.

Thereafter, if an IHT400 needs to be submitted to HMRC, once this has been sent we have to wait for a period of 25 working days before we can submit the Grant of Probate application.

Once the Grant of Probate application is submitted to the Probate Registry it can, again, take up to 16 weeks for the Grant to be issued.

After the Grant has been issued, the estate assets can be gathered, and any liabilities settled. This would include the closure, sale or transfer of any such assets. Once this has occurred, the Estate Accounts will be prepared, and the Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax position for the administration period will be settled. This process can take between 8 and 12 weeks, before then being able to distribute to the beneficiaries.