

PROBATE

Every probate circumstance will be different, so when you contact us we will provide you with a personalised quote for your situation. However, we have set out below a scenario to give an idea of how our costs are calculated. We have set out an example matter which we anticipate will typically take between 35 and 45 hours work at £275 - £400 per hour (excluding VAT), depending on the experience of the solicitor dealing with your case.

The below prices are for estates with only UK assets and where the estate is not in dispute or subject to legal proceedings. The exact cost will depend on the individual circumstances of the matter. Fees may be more, but they may be less, for example if there is only one beneficiary and no property, or a full account submission to HMRC is not required, or the entire estate passes to the spouse, fees may be reduced.

Our fee estimate assumes we will handle the full process for you. This estimate is for estates where:

- There is a valid will
- 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 2 - 5 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 inheritance tax payable and the executors need to submit a full account to HMRC
- There are no claims made against the estate

Disbursements

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. We request disbursements to be paid in advance.

Disbursements in addition to this fee:

- Probate application fee of £155 (plus 0.50p per copy)
- £5 Swearing of the oath (per executor) plus £2 per Will and Codicil
- Bankruptcy only Land Charges Department searches (£2 per beneficiary)
- £40 - £50 Post in The London Gazette – Protects against unexpected claims from unknown creditors.
- £150 - £300 Post in a Local Newspaper – This also helps to protect against unexpected claims.

Examples of potential additional costs

- If there is no will or the estate consists of multiple asset classes, such as any share holdings (stocks and bonds), investments, pensions or life insurance, 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.
- If the Estate includes an interest in a trust.
- If the Will includes an interest in a trust (a quote to administer the trust will be provided to the Trustees on completion of the Estate Administration).
- If the Estate has an interest in a business.
- Any beneficiaries are under 18 or have reduced capacity.
- There are multiple properties.

How long will this take?

On average, estates that fall within this range are completed within 9 - 12 months. Typically, the grant of probate will be obtained within 3 – 4 months. Collecting assets then follows, which can take between 3 – 4 weeks. Once this has been done and all formalities finalised, we can distribute the assets, which normally takes 2 - 3 weeks.