

Applying for the grant, collecting and distributing the assets

For a simple probate matter, we anticipate this will take *circa* 10 hours and will be scaled against an hourly rate starting from £250 + VAT. For more complex matters, this will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

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.

We will handle the full process for you. The above quote is only for estates where there:

- is a valid will;
- is no more than one property in the UK;
- are no more than 2 bank or building society accounts;
- are no other intangible assets;
- are no more than 2 beneficiaries;
- are no disputes between beneficiaries on division of assets. If disputes arise this is likely to lead to an increase in costs;
- is an overall value of the estate that is within the nil rate band threshold and there is no inheritance tax payable and the executors do not need to submit a full account to HMRC; and
- are no claims made against the estate.

Disbursements are costs related to your matter that are payable to third parties, such as court fees. The fees cited below are subject to any changes that may occur by the third party. We handle the payment of the disbursements on your behalf to ensure a smoother process.

The following disbursements will be incurred addition to our professional fees:

- Probate application fee of £273.00 (no VAT) if the value of the estate is over £5,000;
- Swearing of the oath - £7 per executor (no VAT);
- Bankruptcy - only Land Charges Department searches - £2 per beneficiary;
- Advert in The London Gazette – protects against unexpected claims from unknown creditors - from £62.15 + VAT;
- Post in a local newspaper – this also helps to protect against unexpected claims and starts from £185.00 + VAT; and
- extra copies of official copies of probate documents - £1.50 (no VAT) each.

Potential additional costs

- If there is no will or the estate consists of any shareholdings (e.g. stocks and bonds) there is likely to be additional costs that could vary 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 6-8 months. Typically, obtaining the grant of probate takes 8-12 weeks. Collecting assets then follows, which can take between a further 12-16 weeks. Once this has been done, we can distribute the assets, which normally takes 2-4 weeks.