

Probate and Estate Administration Pricing

The details below refer to the collection and distribution of money, property and other assets belonging to a person following their death, where these are within the UK and the matters are not contested.

We understand the stress and emotion surrounding a recent bereavement. We can provide you with as much or as little help as you need.

How much does it cost to apply for a Grant of Probate?

Before we begin work for you, we will provide a detailed estimate of fees together with a timetable for completion of the work. Your estimate will include all predicted costs, including any third-party fees, such as Probate Court fees.

Our costs are based on the assumption that the estate is relatively simple, that we would administer the estate in full, that all beneficiaries are based in the UK and that there are few, if any, assets that would complicate the process or lengthen our time estimates.

We would ascertain the assets and liabilities and value of the estate; attend to the Inheritance Tax (IHT) position if any, obtain the Grant, collect in the assets; settle the liabilities; attend to the income tax position up to the date of death and during the administration period; prepare formal estate accounts and distribute the estate.

The cost of this would depend on the size and nature of the estate but is effectively based upon the time spent and the type of assets involved and the difficulty factor of the estate. The costs would be highlighted within our client engagement letter after we have established the scope of the estate and familiarised ourselves with the assets, liabilities and finances involved.

The fee for a full estate administration will usually be 2% of the value of the estate plus VAT. We will advise at the outset of your instruction if this will need to be varied.

Additional Costs Involved

There may be some additional costs which we will need to pay on your behalf as part of the process. The typical costs are set out below.

- Probate Court fees: Approximately £300, depending on how many copies of the Grant are required.
- Bankruptcy search: £7.80 for every beneficiary.
- Statutory advertisement to creditors from £240 plus VAT. (The actual cost will depend upon the papers advertised in.)
- There may be additional disbursements as required for example, appointing accountants to deal with complex tax returns.

- Stockbrokers fees dealing with lost share certificates and selling shares. (These vary depending upon the stockbroker involved.)
- Land Registry office copies: £8.80 each.

What costs are excluded?

Our fees do not include any external costs and charges that we may incur as part of the administration of the estate such as inheritance tax, income tax, penalties, repayable benefits, fee and charges. You will also be responsible for these items on behalf of the estate. If there are any properties to be sold, the costs for this are separate to the administration of the estate. We would be delighted to help you with this, please call our conveyancing team on 01530 510666

How long will it take?

How long it takes to administer the estate will largely be dependent upon the complexity of the estate itself and the number of beneficiaries involved.

Carrying out the full administration of the estate will typically take 1 to 3 months to obtain the Grant of Probate in a simple non-taxable estate. This is followed by collecting in all the assets. Once all the assets have been gathered in and all liabilities settled, we distribute the assets to the beneficiaries. A straightforward estate may take between 6 and 12 months to conclude from start to finish. If there is a complex or valuable estate, it is likely to take longer. We will be able to give you a clear idea of the likely timescale when we talk to you.