

## **PROBATE (Uncontested)**

When a person dies having left a valid Will, a grant of Probate is required to enable their assets to be collected and distributed. If that person dies without having left a valid Will then the Rules on Intestacy apply and a grant of Letters of Administration is obtained instead of a grant of Probate.

We can help you through this difficult process by obtaining the relevant Grant on your behalf. We will also undertake the collection and distribution of assets.

### **Costs and fees:**

Our time is charged at £210 per hour. Total costs for our professional services are estimated between £3150 and £4200 plus VAT.

The exact cost will depend on the individual circumstances of the matter. For example, if there is one beneficiary and no house, costs will be at the lower end of the range. If there are multiple beneficiaries, a house, multiple bank accounts and shares to be sold, costs will be at the higher end. If a house has to be sold, additional charges will be made for the conveyancing.

This estimated quote is for estates where:

- There is a valid Will
- There is no more than one freehold property
- There are no more than 10 bank or building society accounts
- There are no other tangible assets
- There are no assets outside England and Wales
- There are up to 10 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 account to HMRC
- There are no claims made against the estate under the Inheritance Act 1975

Disbursements in addition to our costs are fees we pay to third parties, which include:

- Probate application fee of £155 plus 50p for each additional copy of the Grant\*
- If required, £5 to £10 swearing of an Oath (per executor)
- Land Registry search fees £3 per document
- £200 approximately to post in the London Gazette and a local newspaper – this protects against unexpected claims on the estate

Potential additional costs

- If there is no Will or the Estate consists of any share holdings (stocks and bonds) there are 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.

**We do not charge a percentage of the value of the Estate, we only charge for the time we spend on the matter**

**Timescales:**

We anticipate that this will take between 15 and 20 hours of work. All timescales are dependent on external services and third parties.

**Services Provided:**

We will handle the full process for you.

We handle the payment of disbursements on your behalf to ensure a smoother process. 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
- Contact all asset holders for a valuation at the date of death
- Ask you to obtain a valuation of land, jewellery etc
- Complete the Probate Application and the relevant HMRC forms
- Draft a statement of truth for you to sign
- Make the application to the Probate Registry on your behalf
- Obtain the Grant and securely send two copies to you
- Collect and distribute all assets in the Estate
- prepare a Schedule of Assets and Liabilities for the Estate and, if required, a full Estate Account at the end of the process

\*New fees are to be introduced in April 2019 and the new fee structure will be confirmed in due course.