

## Probate (uncontested)

We offer an initial no obligation consultation to discuss the administration of the estate. This will help us to establish the level of assistance you may require.

### Price estimates

We can carry out full administration of the estate with our estimate of costs based on the following assumptions:

- 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 no more than 5 beneficiaries.
- There are no disputes or claims made against the estate. If this occurs, the costs are likely to be a considerably higher.
- There is no inheritance tax payable.
- There are no claims made against the estate.
- The deceased was domiciled in England and Wales.
- There are no assets/liabilities outside the UK.

### Below we have summarised the various services we offer and an estimate of costs:

#### **Ascertaining the deceased's assets and liabilities and making the application for the grant of probate (Grant only)**

##### Non-taxable estate:

We anticipate this will take between 5 and 10 hours work plus VAT at 20%. Total costs estimated between £1,000 to £2,000 (+VAT at 20%).

##### Taxable estate:

We anticipate this will take between 15 and 25 hours work plus VAT at 20%. Total costs estimated between £3,000 to £5,000 (+VAT at 20%).

#### **Ascertaining the deceased's assets and liabilities, making the application for the grant of probate, cashing in of the assets and making the distributions (Full Administration)**

##### Non-taxable estate:

We anticipate this will take between 15 and 25 hours work plus VAT at 20%. Total costs estimated between £4,000 to £6,000 (+VAT at 20%).

##### Taxable estate:

We anticipate this will take between 25 and 35 hours work plus VAT at 20%. Total costs estimated between £5,000 to £10,000 (+VAT at 20%).

We can give you a more accurate estimate once we have more information.

### The services included in our fees generally follow these key stages:

- Provide you with a dedicated and experienced fee-earner to work on your matter.
- Assist you with ascertaining the information required for a grant of probate application. Essentially this is establishing all the assets held by the deceased at the date of death and the

values of the same. The level of assistance which you require at this stage will have a bearing on the overall fees.

- Complete all HMRC forms and arrange for the tax to be paid if it is a taxable estate.
- Make the application to the Probate Court on your behalf and arrange for the legal statement to be signed by all the executors.
- Complete all necessary account closing forms and arrange for the executors to sign the same.
- Close down all accounts.
- Settle the liabilities in the estate.
- Draft up a set of estate accounts and distribute monies to beneficiaries.

### 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. These are included in this fee (where applicable VAT is included at 20%) and these include:

- Probate application fee at £273.00 (no fee if the estate is £5,000 or less)
- Additional copies of the grant £1.50 each
- Bankruptcy-only Land Charges Department searches at £2 + VAT per beneficiary
- Beneficiary and executor identity checks at £15 + VAT per person

### Potential additional costs

Notices – these may be issued depending on the estate:

- Post in The London Gazette and a local newspaper at approximately £205.71 + VAT – This protects against unexpected claims from unknown creditors.

Please note that if Charities are named as Residuary Beneficiaries in the Will, the costs are also likely to be higher due to additional obligations which need to be carried out to satisfy their rules.

In addition, dealing with any outstanding income tax matters on behalf of the deceased may require an accountant to be instructed at an additional cost to the estate.

The estimate of costs given at the outset may increase over time as unexpected matters arise, but you will be informed of unexpected costs before work continues.

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.

If there is no will or the estate consists of any share holdings (stocks and bonds) 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.

### How long will this take?

On average, estates that fall within this range are dealt with within 6-12 months. Typically, obtaining the grant of probate takes 16-20 weeks from instruction, however, this may take longer depending on the complexity of the estate. Collecting assets then follows, which can take between 4-8 weeks. Once this has been done, we can settle the liabilities and distribute the assets accordingly, which normally takes 4-8 weeks.

## [Our team](#)

The fee-earners who work in this department are:

- [John Smart](#) (Solicitor)
- [Alisha Stephens](#) (Probate Practitioner – FiLEx)
- [Lucy Hamlyn](#) (Senior Paralegal)
- [Jay Gasson](#) (Paralegal)

Please click on the fee earner to find out more about their level of experience and click here to see current [hourly rates](#).

Jay Gasson is supervised by Alisha Stephens.

Lucy Hamlyn is supervised by John Smart.

John Smart and Alisha Stephens are supervised by Richard Griffiths (Senior Partner).