

PROBATE FEES

About Our fees

You can be assured of the highest standards. We are:

- Regulated and monitored by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.
- Accredited by the Law Society's Wills and Inheritance Quality Scheme demonstrating best practice, technical expertise and assured quality of client service.
- Rajen Chohan has the overall supervision of all Probate matters. Rajen Chohan is a Solicitor at this firm, who has been qualified since 2009.

If you are the executor or administrator of an estate, you might want to consider legal representation but are wondering about the fees and costs. Here we give you an overview of the probate services included and their respective costs.

How much does probate cost?

Based on your individual circumstances we'll advise you on the best option for you.

Application for the Grant of Probate

1. Our fees to obtain the Grant of Probate on a straightforward estate that does not require inheritance tax to be paid, nor any additional IHT allowances are to be claimed we offer a fixed fee of £1950 plus VAT £390 (£2340) plus disbursements (details of which are set out below). If the application involves more complex issues, additional fees will be charged for example the claiming of spouses transferable IHT interest, or the drafting of a power of attorney. An additional minimum charge of £395 plus VAT £79 (£474) would apply per additional matter.

The likely disbursements will approximately be:

- £300 (No VAT Applicable) for Obtaining Probate Court Fee
 - £1.50 (No VAT Applicable) per sealed copies of the Grant.
 - £14 (No VAT Applicable) per property Land registry searches.
2. For IHT400 (sending a full account) and grant only applications (where IHT is payable, or a full account needs to be submitted) we would charge an additional fixed fee of £2800 plus VAT £560 (£3360) plus 1.5% of the gross estate plus VAT @ 20%. The same disbursements as above would also apply.
 3. Please note the above fees do not include any conveyancing transactions or the collection and distribution of the estate.

These fixed fees include: -

- A Meeting (in person, virtual or by telephone) with the executors/personal representatives to explain the process.
- Agreeing the type of application for Probate.
- Obtaining figures from the executors/personal representatives.
- Completing the relevant forms for HMRC and the Court.
- Submitting the application for the grant on behalf of the executors/representatives.

Any additional work not included above, will be charged at the fee earners hourly rate. For details of our hourly rates see below.

Timescales

Whilst it is difficult to give a precise estimate of timescales for this service as there are several factors that depend on each individual estate and executors/personal representatives that may be out of our control but as a guide it could take between 6 to 9 months to obtain the grant of probate but this depends on how quickly we receive the information we request from the executors/representatives. This time frame could vary in the event of requisitions being raised.

Full Administration of an Estate

This includes, writing to banks and Building Societies for the balances of accounts as at the date of death, obtaining valuations of Properties and Investments, obtaining details of any debts, applying for the Grant, collecting assets, paying debts and distributing the Estate.

The exact cost will depend on the complexity of each Estate.

Example 1

There is only one beneficiary

One Property

One bank account

No Inheritance tax payable

Total estimated costs will be in the region of £3800 plus VAT £760 (£4560) plus Disbursements as above.

If there are multiple beneficiaries, a property and multiple bank accounts, costs will be higher as per example 2.

Example 2

There is only one residential property.

There are 5 bank or building society accounts or less, with no other assets.

There are 2-4 beneficiaries.

There are no disputes between beneficiaries.

There is no inheritance tax payable.

We anticipate this will take between 16- and 30-hours work.

Total costs estimated at £3950 - £7650 Plus VAT £790 - £1530 (£4740-£9180) plus Disbursements as listed above, not included in the cost estimate.

Our Full Estate costs are based on the number of hours the Estate takes to complete based on our fee earner charging rate and the estates level of complexity. Please see hourly rate details below.

Where estates become more complex and further additional work is needed, the costs will increase in line with our standard hourly rates. Examples of how the complexity can increase may be the following: -

- Matters where there is no Will, and the deceased left no surviving spouse or adult children.
- Where the Estate consists of any share holdings (stocks and bonds).
- Where the deceased was domiciled abroad.
- Registration of death.
- Transfer of the spouses Nil Rate band or Residential Nil Rate band.
- Completion of the IHT400 full account for HMRC.
- Dealing with the sale or transfer of any property in the Estate.
- Dealing with the variation of the Estate (Drafting a Deed of Variation).
- Dealing with any disputes that may arise.
- Minority interest requiring nomination of co-administrator.
- Power of attorney required.
- Affidavit (e.g. of due execution) or Order required.
- Mental capacity issues requiring medical certification and Court of Protection liaison.

Timescales

The Administration of an Estate typically takes anywhere from 3 months to 3 years to complete depending on the complexity of the Estate. Extremely complex matters could take even longer from initial instructions to distribution of the Estate.

You would be informed of any increase to our estimated fees prior to us carrying out any further work.

Hourly Rate

Rajen Chohan has the overall Conduct of a Probate Matter. Rajen Chohan is a Solicitor at this firm, who has been qualified since 2009. His current hourly rate is £255 plus VAT £51 (£306).

We review the hourly rate each year and we will notify you of any change in the rate in writing. Disbursements may change in the future. We will advise you of any increases in writing.

Can I pay legal fees for probate from the estate?

Yes, if you are the administrator or executor of a loved one, you can opt for legal representation and the professional fees are paid from the estate, however disbursements will need to be paid upfront. Any such payments will be treated as a debt to the estate.

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