

# PROBATE (UNCONTESTED) COSTS INFORMATION



Our firm's charges for acting in probate cases (uncontested) are based on the following:

## **We offer Simple Estates a fixed fee service:**

A Simple Estate that the deceased owned would be for example:-

- One property
- A few bank and building society accounts
- A small number of beneficiaries
- A valid Will

Stage of Case		Our Fees
Up to the extraction of the Grant/Letters of Administration	Up to the extraction of the Grant of Probate, including obtaining values of assets and liabilities, liaising with beneficiaries etc (exclusion of IHT returns)	£2,000 plus £400 VAT
Administration of the estate	Collecting assets, paying liabilities, distribution of estate and finalising estate accounts	£3,000 plus £600 VAT
Total Fixed Fee* excluding disbursements		£5,000 plus £1,000 VAT

**\* These fees may change subject to the complexity of the estate**

## Complex Estates

If the estate is complex, your solicitor will discuss the fee during the meeting. The fee will be the higher of either: 1) the time spent, calculated at the solicitor's hourly rate, or 2) a percentage of the estate's gross value.

- 1) Time spent dealing with the transaction including meetings, considering, preparing and working on related documents, correspondence and telephone calls. The current hourly rate is £275 plus £55 VAT.
- 2) The percentage charge based on the gross value of the estate:
  - a. Where we are NOT acting as Executors/Trustees the percentage charge is 1% of the gross value of the estate (plus 20% VAT)
  - b. Where we ARE acting as Executors/Trustees the percentage charge is 1.5% of the gross value of the estate (plus 20% VAT)

### Average Fee Guide

#### Example where we are NOT acting as Executors/Trustees:

Stage of Case	Charge Basis	Our Fees
Estimated Hours to Extract Grant of Probate	12 – 16 hours	£3,300 plus £660 VAT to £4,400 plus £880 VAT
Administration of the Estate	15 – 20 hours	£4,125 plus £825 VAT to £5,500 plus £1,100 VAT
	Total time 27 – 36 hours	£7,425 plus £1,485 VAT to £9,900 plus £1,980 VAT
a) Gross value of Estate £800,000	Time spent (36 hours) is higher than the percentage charge (1%)	<b>£9,900 plus £1,980 VAT</b>
b) Gross value of Estate £1.5 million	Percentage charge (1%) is higher than time spent	<b>£15,000 plus £3,000 VAT</b>

### Estates which are considered complex estates

- The estate is liable to pay IHT
- No Will or Partial intestacy
- 10% of the estate is going to charity
- Foreign Assets
- Wide range of assets including shares, pensions, numerous banks and building society accounts
- Insolvent estate
- Quick succession of deaths of beneficiaries

- Death of a second spouse where no administration was completed following the first spouse's death
- Estates involving Trusts
- Minor beneficiaries
- Missing beneficiaries
- Large number of beneficiaries
- Lifetime gifts made by the deceased
- Business assets and Agricultural assets

Each case is unique and total fees will differ, however we have provided an average fee guide above. Once we have a complete understanding of the Estate, we can offer a more precise estimate.

## Disbursements

Disbursements (payments to third parties) are all payable by the Estate and typically can include the following:

- £300 Grant of Probate fee (if the estate is over £5,000) (no VAT),
- £1.50 plus £0.30 VAT per additional copy of the Grant,
- £300 plus £60 VAT (approximately) Statutory Notice,
- £50 plus £10 VAT for share valuation,
- Inheritance tax payable to HMRC (if applicable), and
- Outstanding sums owed by the deceased for example council tax, overpaid pensions and so on.

## How long will my matter take?

The time required to finalise the estate from the initial instructions depends on various factors, such as the number of agencies and organisations involved, the number and location of beneficiaries, and the nature of assets and liabilities. We will make every reasonable effort to finalise the estate within 12 months. This is an estimate, and we will provide a more accurate timescale as we gather more information and as the matter progresses.

The Estate Administration team dealing with your matter will be Polly Butteris and Holly Holman. Please see our [About Us/The Team](#) section for information regarding their qualifications and experience.

**For more information, please contact us:**

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