

Probate

Our fees for probate are charged on a time recorded basis and each fee earner has their own hourly rate. The firm does not charge a percentage of the estate or different prices based on the value of the estate.

Time spent on your affairs will include meetings with you and perhaps others, also any time spent considering, preparing and working on papers, correspondence and making and receiving telephone calls. For ease of reference these costs are itemised below.

Preparation and attendance	£160- £210 per hour
Advocacy at Court	£200- £250 per hour
Attendance at Court with Counsel	£105- £125 per hour
Conference with Counsel	£105-£125 per hour
Travelling and waiting time	£85- £110 per hour
Routine letters written and telephone calls	£16- £21 each
Routine letters received	£8- £10.50 each
Lengthy letters and telephone calls	Time basis at our hourly rate
Mileage	45p per mile

VAT is charged in addition at 20%

Each matter is different and the time spent working on the file will depend on the nature of assets, the number of beneficiaries, whether or not Inheritance Tax has to be calculated and paid or any Income Tax return made. The following link may be useful <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hmrc-tools-and-calculators#inheritance-tax-and-bereavement>.

Our prices start at £500 plus VAT and disbursements.

Disbursements -

- Probate application fee of £155
- Sealed copies of the grant at 50p each
- Fee for swearing the oath £5-£7 per swear

In some cases the following disbursements will also be necessary:

- £100 to advertise for creditors in the London Gazette
- A fee to advertise in a local paper which can range from £70 to £200
- Asset searches which would be on a quote basis
- £3.60 to get a copy of the title from the Land Registry if the estate includes a property. This is the price per title.

Disbursements are costs related to your matter that are payable to third parties, such as an application fee. We handle the payment of the disbursements on your behalf to ensure a smoother process. Inheritance tax may also be chargeable on some higher value estates and is a debt of the estate.

We will give you a fee estimate once we have more information regarding the estate.

Dealing with the sale or transfer of any property in the estate is not included with the work carried out with the estate and this would be referred to our conveyancing department.

How long will the process take -

On average, estates that have less than 5 bank accounts and do not have a property to sell are dealt with within 3-7 months. Typically, obtaining the grant of probate takes 2-4 weeks from submitting the application. Collecting assets then follows, which can take between 2-8 weeks. Once this has been completed, we can distribute the assets, which normally takes 2-8 weeks depending on the number of beneficiaries.

Please contact our probate department if you require any further information.