Probate and Estate Administration Fees

The Solicitors Regulation Authority requires law firms to publish information about the cost of helping executors and administrators deal with a deceased person's estate.

We usually charge for this work by the hour rather than offering a fixed fee. At the start, we will explain our hourly rates and give you an estimate based on the information available. We will review the estimate as the matter progresses and tell you if it needs to change.

The final cost will depend on factors such as the estate's value and complexity, the number of beneficiaries and whether Inheritance Tax is payable.

Our estimated fees

We offer a transparent, flexible approach to probate and estate administration. Our standard hourly rate is **£200 + VAT**.

1. Grant Only Service (making the application, collecting the grant)

- **Estimated Cost:** £2,000 – £3,500 + VAT (approx. 10 to 17.5 hours of work).
- *Includes:* Assessing the estate, completing the probate application and HMRC forms, and obtaining the Grant of Probate.

2. Full Estate Administration (from the grant through to final distribution)

- **Estimated Cost:** £3,500 – £10,000+ + VAT (depending on the scale and complexity of the assets).
- *Includes:* Collecting in assets, settling liabilities, dealing with income/capital gains tax during administration, and distributing to beneficiaries.

These figures are estimates. The exact cost will depend on the estate. Estates with multiple beneficiaries, property and several bank accounts are likely to be at the higher end of the range.

Our fees are likely to be lower where:

- there is a valid will;
- there is no more than one property;
- there are no more than six bank or building society accounts;
- there are no other intangible assets;
- there are between one and four beneficiaries;
- the beneficiaries agree on how the estate should be divided;
- no Inheritance Tax is payable and a full account does not need to be submitted to HM Revenue & Customs; and
- no claims are made against the estate.

If a dispute arises between beneficiaries, our fees are likely to increase.

Disbursements

Disbursements are payments made to third parties, such as court or counsel's fees. We will usually pay these on your behalf and recover them from the estate.

Typical disbursement	Amount
Probate application fee	£526
Fee for swearing the oath	£7 per executor
Bankruptcy-only Land Charges Department search	£6 per beneficiary
Notice of Death in The London Gazette and a local newspaper	£240 plus VAT

Possible additional costs

Additional fees may apply if there is no will or if the estate includes shares, stocks or bonds. The amount will depend on the estate and how the assets are dealt with. We can give you a more accurate estimate once we have the necessary information.

Extra copies of the grant cost £2.00 each. Usually, one copy is needed for each asset.

If a property in the estate needs to be sold or transferred, our Conveyancing Department will deal with that work separately. Conveyancing fees are not included in the probate estimate.

How long will it take?

Most estates are completed within 6 to 12 months, although complex estates may take longer.

As a guide:

- obtaining the grant of probate usually takes 4 to 12 weeks;
- collecting the assets usually takes a further 2 to 4 weeks; and
- once the remaining work is complete, distributing the assets usually takes a further 2 to 4 weeks.

These timescales are estimates and will depend on the circumstances of the estate.