

Applying for the grant, collecting and distributing the assets

We anticipate this will take between seven and 15 hours' work. We estimate that the total cost will be between £1,750 and £3,750 (+VAT). The hourly rate of the person dealing with your matter will depend on their experience. These rates are set out below:

Partner	£260 (+VAT)
Associate Solicitor	£240 (+VAT)
Solicitor	£230 (+VAT)
Legal Executive	£215 (+VAT)
Trust Executive	£200 (+VAT)
Paralegal	£121 (+VAT)

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.

We will handle the full process for you. This quote is for estates where:

- There is a valid Will, and no complications are likely to arise in proving this at the Probate Registry.
- There is no more than one property.
- There are no more than three bank or building society accounts.
- There are no other intangible assets.
- All the assets are in the UK.
- There are between one and five beneficiaries.
- There are no disputes between beneficiaries regarding the division of assets. If disputes arise, this is likely to lead to an increase in costs and the matter may need to be passed to our Contentious Probate team to be dealt with.
- There is no Inheritance Tax payable and the executors do not need to submit a full account to HMRC.
- There are no claims made against the estate.

Disbursements not included in this fee:

- Probate Application fee of £155 (VAT not applicable).
- Swearing of the oath fee of £7 per executor (VAT not applicable).
- Bankruptcy-only Land Charges Department searches, costing £2 (+VAT) per beneficiary.
- Other disbursements, such as statutory advertisements and asset searches, may be necessary but will depend on the circumstances and costs vary.

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. VAT may or may not be applicable depending on the disbursement, but we will inform you whether or not a disbursement is VAT applicable should this be necessary.

Potential additional costs:

- If there is no Will, or the estate consists of any share holdings (stocks and bonds), more than three bank or building society accounts or additional assets, there are 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.
- If we are the executors, and therefore have to register the death and make the funeral arrangements, visit the property and sort through paperwork, deal with personal chattels and the clearance of the property, the additional costs could vary significantly.
- If any additional copies of the grant are required, they will cost 50p (VAT not applicable). One per asset is usually required.
- Dealing with the sale or transfer of any property in the estate is not included.
- Any complex tax issues that may arise, other than Inheritance Tax, are not included.

How long will this take?

On average, estates that fall within this range are dealt with within six to 12 months. Typically, obtaining the grant of probate takes between six and 12 weeks. Collecting assets then follows, which can take up to the remainder of the time estimate. Once this has been done, we can distribute the assets, which normally takes between one and two weeks.

As part of our fee we will:

- Provide you with a dedicated and experienced Probate lawyer to work on your matter.
- Identify the legally appointed executors or administrators and beneficiaries.
- Accurately identify the type of Probate Application you will require.
- Obtain the relevant documents required to make the Application.
- Complete the Probate Application and the relevant HMRC forms.
- Draft a legal oath for you to swear.
- Make the application to the Probate Court on your behalf.
- Obtain the Probate and securely send two copies to you.
- Collect all assets in the estate.
- Settle any liabilities and make payments of cash legacies and personal items.
- Distribute the estate to the residuary beneficiaries.

Where Inheritance Tax is payable and the executors need to submit a full account to HMRC, we will discuss the cost estimate with you in more detail at the initial meeting, upon obtaining more detailed information regarding the estate.