

Applications for Grants of Probate in simple estates

This work will be undertaken by Sharon Baker who is a Fellow of the Institute of Paralegals (IoP), who has 20 years' experience of dealing with all aspects of estate administration.

This estimate is for simple estates where:

- There is a valid Will
- There is no more than one property
- There are no more than 5 bank or building society accounts
- There are no other intangible assets
- There are between 2 and 4 beneficiaries
- There are no disputes between beneficiaries on division of assets. If disputes arise this will lead to an increase in costs
- There is no Inheritance Tax payable and the executors do not need to submit a full account to HMRC.
- There are no assets held in trust and the Will does not establish a trust of the whole or part of the estate.
- There are no claims made against the estate

Applying for the grant, collecting and distributing the assets

We anticipate this will take between 10 and 20 hours work at £160 per hour. Total costs estimated at £1,900 - £3,500 (+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.

Estimated disbursements included in this fee:

Probate application fee of £160

Bankruptcy only

Land Charges Department searches (£3 per beneficiary)

£160 for Statutory Notices in The London Gazette and in a Local Newspaper – these offer some protection against unexpected claims from unknown creditors.

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. The exact amounts will vary depending on the estate and where e.g. the deceased was resident for the Statutory Notices.

Potential additional costs

If there is no Will or the estate consists of any share holdings (stocks and bonds) 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 estimate once we have more information.

If any additional copies of the grant are required, they will cost £X (1 per asset usually).

Dealing with the sale or transfer of any property in the estate is not included.

How long will this take?

On average, estates that fall within this range are dealt with within 3-6 months. Typically, obtaining the Grant of Probate takes 6-12 weeks. Collecting assets then follows, which can take between 3-6 weeks.

Once this has been done, we can distribute the assets, which normally takes 3-6 weeks.

If any additional copies of the Grant are required, they will cost £1 per asset usually.

Dealing with the sale or transfer of any property in the estate is not included.

All other estates

For estates which are not as set out above, an estimate will be provided once we have detailed information about the estate.

Our charges will be based on the hourly rate of Mark Diomedes a Senior Solicitor and Director, who has over 30 years' experience and is also a member of the Society of Estate Practitioners (STEP).