

Probate and Administration of Estates Costs

Here you can find our costs in relation to Probate and Administration of Estates. *If you have any queries regarding the costs in this table, please contact us so that we may provide a personalised quote.* Vat is included where indicated.

We can also assist in drafting your Will or Power of Attorney (LPA), please contact us for further details.

We do not and never will pay or receive referral fees for Probate work; rather our clients choose us based on word of mouth, referrals from previous clients and our good name.

There are different levels of service you could instruct us to carry out on your behalf, being:

- 1) Obtaining a Grant of Probate only (where there is a Will) or obtaining Letters of Administration only (where there is not a will)
- 2) Obtaining the above Grant and then going on to take all steps to fully administer the Estate up to and including final distribution.

Section 1 – Obtaining Letters of Administration only (where there is not a will)

APPLICANT BEING SPOUSE/CHILD OF DECEASED

ESTATES UNDER £325,000

Costs	£695.00
VAT	£119.00
For Court fee see	www.gov.uk/applying-for-probate/fees

ESTATES UNDER £650,000

Costs	£1450.00
VAT	£290.00
For Court fee see	www.gov.uk/applying-for-probate/fees

ESTATES OVER £650,000

Costs	0.5% of the gross value of estate plus VAT
For Court fee see	www.gov.uk/applying-for-probate/fees

Please note that for Letters of administration only applications we will gather from you the necessary information for the preparation of an Inheritance Tax Return, prepare the online application, organise for the legal statement to be signed before submission of the application.

The initial meeting and our preparation generally takes four to five weeks and once submitted to the probate registry they take approximately sixteen weeks to issue the letters of administration although these periods will be greater in the case of an application for letters of administration (no will) or letters of administration with will annexed (when there is some issue with the original will itself).

Please note all estimated charges and time estimates are reliant upon there being no contested element within the estate and are given strictly on the basis that the Executors work together co-operatively eg. attend joint meetings to avoid duplication.

Note:- If Applicant is less related than a spouse or child of the deceased, our legal costs will increase and depends upon the particular circumstances and family tree.

Section 2 – Obtaining Probate and full Administration of the Estate

ESTATES UP TO £100,000

Costs £2000.00 plus VAT
For Court fee see www.gov.uk/applying-for-probate/fees

ESTATES BETWEEN £100,000 - £2,000,000

Costs 2 to 2.5% (dependent on complexity)
Of gross value of estate plus VAT
For Court fee see www.gov.uk/applying-for-probate/fees

ESTATES BETWEEN £2,000,000 +

Costs 2% plus VAT
For Court fee see www.gov.uk/applying-for-probate/fees

*** See probate only for time estimates although it can take longer if asset values are unknown and inheritance tax has to be paid. ***

When we are instructed to act in the administration of the estate following probate being issued we charge an hourly rate (between £250 and £295 plus vat per hour depending on complexity and seniority of lawyer acting for the work required. The exact cost will depend on the individual circumstances of the matter but in order to provide an indication, based upon our experience, the total costs tend to range between 2% and 2.5% of the gross value of the estate (as indicated above) plus vat plus disbursements.

Please note that we charge separately for estate agency and conveyancing services, whether sale or transfer.

Disbursements

Disbursements are costs related to your matter that are payable to third parties such as court fees. We will pay these on your behalf. The disbursements include: -

Probate application fee – see HMCTS link

Bankruptcy only land charges department search of £2.00 per beneficiary.

Statutory advertisements – protects against unexpected claims from unknown creditors and claims against the estate, approximately £300.00

Typically collecting assets and administration of the estate can take eight to twelve weeks (longer if the case is complicated) and once this is done we will be able to prepare an estate account for approval following which the estate can be distributed.

We will provide advice regarding potential issues that can arise for the executors when distributing an estate before the expiry of a period of six months and one day from the date of probate.

Please note all estimated charges are reliant upon there being no contested element within the estate and are given strictly on the basis that the Executors work together co-operatively eg. attend joint meetings to avoid duplication. In complex administrations we will be able to provide a more accurate estimate of costs once we are aware of the facts of the particular matter.

Probate Lawyer Profile

Andrew Cropper, Director, Senior Solicitor and Supervisor

Andrew obtained his Law Degree LLB (Hons) at Leeds University in 1990. He has 24 years' post-qualification experience. Andrew has vast experience administering all categories of Estates. Andrew spends approximately half of his time on all areas of Private Client work including Probate and Administration of Estates, Wills and Powers of Attorney on such transactions, the other half being spent on Conveyancing. Andrew is a Conveyancing Supervisor and head of our Conveyancing, Private Client department and our Estate Agency.