

Our fees for application for Grant of Probate only - estate not liable to Inheritance Tax

We can help you through the process of obtaining a Grant of Probate and administering the affairs of a family member. We understand that these are complex procedures at a difficult time for you and your family and so we will deal with your case in a sensitive manner.

How much do our services cost?

We can perform a wide range of services for you from just applying for a Grant of Representation to the full administration and winding up of an estate. Each person's affairs are unique to them so it is very difficult to provide definitive advice as to our charges until we understand in some detail what will be involved in the particular circumstances of an estate. We do advise all clients to contact us directly without obligation so we can go into the full details of the specific case. The number to ring is 0151 282 1700.

In the advice on these pages we will try and be as helpful as we can in providing an indication of what our services will cost but in all cases the exact estimate will depend on what you tell us at the start. Complexities can arise during a case and if they do so we will keep you fully informed as to how the costs situation may be affected.

Obtaining a Grant of Probate in a case where Inheritance tax will not apply

We can just obtain a Grant of representation on your behalf, our fixed fee for extracting a Grant of Probate or other appropriate grant is £750 plus VAT*. That fixed fee applies to lower value cases where inheritance taxes (IHT) do not apply.

By virtue of Anti-Money Laundering Regulations and SRA Standards and Regulations, we are required to verify your identity and the integrity of the assets which may be the subject of your transaction. We will make a charge of £20 plus VAT for each person for whom such checks are required. This includes a direct cost to us for this service of between £8 and £14 (depending on the circumstances and the provider used) and a small charge to cover administration and advice. Please note that if you reside abroad then the charge will be higher and will be based on where you reside.

For higher value estates please continue to read what we say below:

This includes:

- An initial appointment with one of our lawyers to discuss the administration of the estate and to obtain the required information from you regarding the assets and liabilities in the estate;
- Reviewing the details of the assets and liabilities in the estate as provided by you;
- Preparing the application for Grant of Probate, including completing HM Revenue & Customs Form IHT205 (where applicable) and preparing the legal statement for Executor(s);
- Arranging for the executor(s) to sign the legal statement for Executor(s) and sign Form IHT205 (where applicable);

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- Submitting the application to the Probate Registry;
- Forwarding the Grant of Probate and additional copies to the executors to continue with the administration of the estate.

Potential Additional Costs

The above fee does not include contacting the various asset holders to seek formal probate valuations or to ascertain the liabilities in the estate. We will rely on you to provide this information.

The fee also does not include us contacting the beneficiaries named in the Will.

Breakdown of costs:

Legal fees £750 plus VAT* (at current VAT rates this is £900 in total).

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Payments to third parties are also payable and include:

- Probate court fee of £273
- Additional copies of the Grant of Probate fee £1.50 per copy.
- £91.00 plus VAT* (£109.20 in total) to place a S27 Trustee Notice in the London Gazette - Protects against unexpected claims from unknown creditors.
- £131.59 plus VAT* (£157.91 in total) to place a S27 Trustee Notice in a Local Newspaper (this price is for the Wirral Globe, prices for other papers may vary) - this also helps to protect against unexpected claims.

We will handle the payment of these third-party payments on your behalf to ensure a smoother process.

As part of our fixed fee we will:

- Provide you with a dedicated and experienced lawyer to work on your matter.
- Identify the legally appointed executors or administrators.
- 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.
- Prepare a legal statement for you to sign
- Make the application to the District Probate Registry on your behalf.
- Obtain the Grant of Probate and securely send the same with any additional copies to you.

On average, an instruction to apply for Grant of Probate only can be dealt with within two to three months following receipt from you of details of the assets and liabilities include valuations.

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Thank you for reading what is quite complex information. Please do give us a ring to discuss your case on 0151 282 1700 and we will be able to give you costs information taking into account your exact situation.

(*Current VAT rate is 20%)