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Pricing

Probate

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Ward Hadaway



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Probate

We regularly advise clients on all aspects of estate administration. Our costs for obtaining the Grant of Probate and administering an estate typically range from £2,500 to £25,000 plus VAT (at a rate of 20%) and disbursements, however in very complex cases our costs will be higher than this. The exact costs depend on the individual circumstances of the matter. For example, if there is one beneficiary and no property, costs will be lower. If there are multiple beneficiaries, business or agricultural property and a full inheritance tax account is required, costs will be higher. Please get in touch to discuss your requirements and we will provide you with a more accurate indication of costs.

In order to give you an indication, we have outlined a case study below.

Case Study

In an estate with the following factors:

- There is a valid Will.
- There is no more than one property and the title is registered.
- There are no more than three bank or building society accounts.
- There are no other intangible assets.
- There are no more than two beneficiaries who can be easily identified.
- There are no disputes between beneficiaries on division of assets. If a dispute arises this is likely to lead to an increase in costs.
- The deceased did not make any lifetime gifts which require reporting to HMRC.
- 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.
- We are not asked to register the death and arrange the funeral.

What's included in the price:

- Providing you with a dedicated and experienced probate solicitor to work on your matter.
- Taking your instructions and giving you initial advice.
- Identifying the legally appointed Executors and Beneficiaries.
- Obtaining Probate Valuations.
- Preparing a short form Inheritance Tax return (IHT205).
- Completing the probate application including preparing the Probate Application Form for the Executors to sign.
- Making the application to the Probate Court.
- Obtaining the probate and sending a copy to the Executors.
- Encashing the assets of the estate (not including the costs of selling a property).
- Distributing the estate.

Our estimate in these circumstances would be fees of £2,500 plus VAT (at a rate of 20%) and disbursements. The exact cost will depend on the individual circumstances for the matter and we will provide a cost estimate at the outset of the estate administration.

We charge on a time basis and the hourly rate of the specialist involved in the estate administration.

Disbursements (Expenses):

Disbursements are costs relating 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 provided you have put us in funds to do so.

The disbursements we anticipate are set out below. This is not an exhaustive list and other disbursements may arise.

- Probate application fee - £155 plus additional copies of the grant at £1.50 per copy.
- Statutory Advertisements approximately £150 plus VAT at a rate of 20%. It is recommended that an advertisement is placed in a local and national newspaper to help locate any creditors before the estate is distributed to the beneficiaries.

Factors that could make a case more complex and increase the cost

Examples of circumstances that would add to the level of cost include:

- the existence of more complex assets such as shareholdings or foreign property.
- a greater number of assets.
- multiple Beneficiaries or Beneficiaries difficult to identify.
- dealing with the sale of any interest in land in the estate.
- estates subject to claims for Agricultural Property Relief and/ or Business Property Relief.
- preparing full IHT form, arranging the payment of inheritance tax and dealing with enquires raised by HM Revenue and Customs. Information relating to IHT is available [here](#).
- registering the death and arranging the funeral service.
- arranging for personal belongings to be sold and for a property to be cleared.
- arranging insurance for a property.

Additional Services not included

There are other related services which we offer that are not included in the price stated above:

- dealing with income tax and capital gain tax issues.
- preparing deeds of variation.
- claims for loss reliefs to reduce Inheritance Tax if assets are sold at a lower price than the probate valuation.
- acting in the sale of a property.

Timescales

On average, estates which are similar in nature to the case study take around 6 months to administer and include the following stages.

- From initial instructions to applying for the grant of probate – up to 12 weeks.
- Probate registry issuing the grant of probate – 4-6 weeks (but dependent on the Probate Registry)
- Collecting in the assets, once the Executors have signed the appropriate authorities – up to 4 weeks.
- Distributing the majority of the assets to the beneficiaries – up to 4 weeks.

No case is ever the same and therefore the timescales may differ. The timescales are dependent on the cooperation of third parties and Executors.

Private Client Team

The work will be carried out by a member of the Private Client Team. Regardless of who works on your matter, they will be supervised by either Andrew Facer, Partner and Head of Department or Andrew Evans, Partner.

The hourly rates of the team are as follows:-

- Andrew Facer – Partner - £340.00 plus VAT (at a rate of 20%)
- Andrew Evans – Partner- £340.00 plus VAT (at a rate of 20%)
- Gaynor Jackson – Consultant - £340.00 plus VAT (at a rate of 20%)
- Debbie Spence – Associate - £280.00 plus VAT (at a rate of 20%)
- Sarah Dove – Solicitor - £200.00 plus VAT (at a rate of 20%)
- Lily Lynch – Solicitor - £200.00 plus VAT (at a rate of 20%)
- Lucy Martindale – Paralegal - £120.00 plus VAT (at a rate of 20%)

Further details of the team and their experience can be found [here](#).