



## **PROBATE FEES**

We can assist you in dealing with the administration of an Estate.

Sometimes an initial meeting leads to the conclusion that you can more appropriately deal with the application for Probate without the need for a solicitor.

We will always discuss this with you honestly and openly and in those circumstances there will not usually be a charge for the initial meeting

If assistance is needed to help you discover the extent of their assets and liabilities and applying to the Probate Registry for the Grant to enable you to manage and wind up their Estate calculating and paying any tax and distributing the Estate to the Beneficiaries then costs are likely to be as follows:

For a simple extraction of a Grant of Probate in an untaxable estate - £800 - £1,500 plus VAT

For more complex estates we will charge on a time basis with a Partner charging at £220 plus VAT per hour and a Probate assistant charging at £150 plus VAT per hour.

If Inheritance Tax is payable or an IHT 400 must be completed our charges will usually start at £2,000 plus VAT and often are as high as £5,000.

## **ESTIMATES**

We will be able to give you an up-front estimate of our costs for the whole transaction once we have had a chance to read through the relevant paperwork.

This will enable us to assess the likely time scales given the amount, complexity and location of the assets, the interpretation of the terms of the Will, the number of beneficiaries, and any inter reaction between IHT and CGT,.

Some estates may seem simple enough but unforeseen complications may become apparent as the case progresses. In cases for example where executors do not get on with each other, extra time is often required by us to handle the increased volume of phone calls or letters that this can engender, and this will have an impact on costs.

We will always discuss with you the fee position if it changes from the original estimate, based on the evolving situation.

## **DISBURSEMENTS AND OTHER COSTS**

Currently there is a probate fee of £155 payable to the Probate Registry for solicitor applications, but there is a proposal for these fees to rise considerably in the future, and be linked instead to the size of the estate.

All applications are lodged online direct with HMCTS.

In a taxable estate Inheritance Tax must be paid to HMRC before the Grant of Probate can be issued. This can usually be paid directly from one of the bank accounts of the deceased.

If there is a property to be sold as part of the estate administration then our conveyancing costs will be charged at a fixed fee, and this cost will be separate from the estate administration costs.

Land Registry fees (plus VAT) may also be payable as an extra disbursement during the administration of an estate, although these are usually minimal.

Where there are shares to be valued and sold or transferred there may be a fee payable to a stockbroker, or indemnity costs relating to missing share certificates.

Fees may be payable to an estate agent or surveyor in relation to land or a house, or for an expert valuer to provide a valuation of antiques, jewellery or other valuable chattels.

In complex estates there may be a need to employ an accountant to assist with income tax returns and the drafting of estate accounts, particularly when income has been accruing during the administration period. The accountants' fees would be payable in addition to our costs.