



Legal Fee Information for Uncontested Probate

Introduction

Probate is the court-supervised process of gathering a deceased person's assets, paying debts and taxes and distributing what is left to those who are named as inheritors in the Will.

Uncontested probate is where there is no dispute over the Will and distribution of assets.

Below we provide you with information on our Legal Fees, disbursements and the length of time it will take to complete your matter.

Legal Fees and Disbursements

Legal Fees is the amount you will be required to pay for all of the work performed by us in actioning your instructions, from commencement of your case to conclusion.

- Our average stand legal fee for an uncontested probate matter is between £3,000.00 - £7,000.00 plus VAT. (a total of £3,600.00 - £8,400.00 Inc. VAT) Below we detail what services are covered in our standard fee.
- Our hourly rate for handling an average uncontested probate matter range from £255.00 - £275.00 plus VAT (a total of £306.00 - £330.00 Inc. VAT) and this will depend on the experience and qualifications of the person handling your transaction.
- We will charge the sum of £35.00 plus VAT for Electronic money transfers.
- VAT will be payable on our fees and most disbursements and we will clearly confirm which disbursements carry VAT in our formal quotation or as we advise you to incur them.

The exact cost will depend on the individual circumstances of the matter. E.G. if there is one beneficiary, no property – costs will be at the lower end of the range. If there are multiple beneficiaries, property, and multiple bank accounts, costs will be at the higher end of the range.

We will handle the full process for you. Our standard Fee estimate above is for estate where:-

- There is a valid will
- There is no more than one property
- There are no more than £325,000.00 in the bank or building society accounts.
- There are no other intangible assets
- There are 1-2 beneficiaries
- There are no disputes between beneficiaries on division of assets. If disputes arise this is likely to lead to an increase in costs.
- There is no inheritance tax payable & executors do not need to submit a full account to HMRC
- There are no claims made against the estate
- There is no tax clearance awaited for either inheritance or income tax

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Disbursements

Disbursements are costs related to your matter that are payable to third parties. We handle the payment of the disbursements on your behalf, to ensure a smoother process.

You will be provided with a full list of disbursements in our formal quotation. If you need to incur any further disbursements during your case, you will be notified in advance of the reason and the amount. Typical disbursements will include;-

- Probate application fee (£280.00)
- Bankruptcy only Land Charges Department searches
- Post in The London Gazette – Protects against unexpected claims from unknown creditors.
- Post in a Local Newspaper – this helps protect from unexpected claims.

How long will this take?

On average, estate that fall within the range are dealt within 6 – 8 months. Typically, obtaining the grant of probate takes 12 – 18 weeks.

Collecting assets then follows, which can take between 6 – 12 weeks. Once this has been done, we can distribute the assets, which normally take 2 -3 weeks.

Stages of Process

The precise stages involved in an uncontested probate vary according to the circumstances. We have set out the key stages of a standard transaction: -

- Providing you with a dedicated and experienced probate solicitor to work on your matter.
- Undertaking regulatory checks. • Identifying the legally appointed executors or administrators and beneficiaries.
- Accurately identifying the type of Probate application you will require.
- Obtaining the relevant documents required to make the application.
- Completing the Probate Application and the relevant HMRC forms.
- Drafting a legal statement for you to swear.
- Making the application to the Probate Court on your behalf.
- Obtaining the Probate and securely send two copies to you.
- Collecting and distributing all assets in the estate.

Further potential costs may arise where: -

- If there is no will or the estate consists of any share holdings (stocks and bonds) there is 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 quote once we have more information.
- If any additional copies of the grant are required, they will cost £1 (1 per asset usually).
- Dealing with the sale or transfer of any property in the estate is not included.

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Questions

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