

## PROBATE COST ESTIMATE

If the person who has died left a Will, a legal document known as a Grant of Probate may have to be applied for at the Probate Registry. A Grant of Probate gives the Executor(s) of the Will authority to deal with deceased person's assets (property, bank accounts, investments, etc).

If the person who has died did not leave a Will, a legal document known as a Grant of Letters of Administration may have to be applied for at the Probate Registry. The person or persons entitled to apply for the Grant of Letters of Administration are governed by the Intestacy Rules ([www.gov.uk/inherits-someone-dies-without-will](http://www.gov.uk/inherits-someone-dies-without-will)). As with the Grant of Probate, the Grant of Letters of Administration gives authority to that person or persons (known as an Administrator) to deal with the assets.

<b>Legal fees</b>	<b>(All legal fees are subject to VAT at 20%)</b>
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Our fees for dealing with the application for a Grant of Probate or a Grant of Letters of Administration and the administration and distribution of the estate are charged on an hourly basis and calculated by reference to the number of hours we spend working on the file. Our hourly rates are as follows:

<b>Solicitor</b>	
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Sarah Arundel	£180 per hour
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<b>Chartered Legal Executive</b>	
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Susan Hudson	£180 per hour
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<b>Probate Assistants</b>	
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Kim Marley	£100 per hour
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Sandra Blackburn	£100 per hour
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<b>Fees for applying for the Grant of Probate, collecting and distributing the assets</b>
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The exact costs will depend on the individual circumstances of the matter. We will provide you with a good estimate of the number of hours that we anticipate it will take to deal with the matter based on the information that you provide us with. The total costs can typically range anywhere from £1,500 to £15,000.

The following factors are all taken into account when providing you with an estimate:

- If there is a Will and it has been located;
- The number of beneficiaries named in the Will or under the Intestacy Rules;
- The number of properties;
- The number of other assets such as bank accounts, shares, life policies, National Savings investments, etc;
- If there are any foreign assets;
- If the value of the estate exceeds the Inheritance Tax allowance. By Law, we always have to complete a form to confirm whether or not Inheritance Tax is due, on every estate. You can find out further information about Inheritance Tax at [www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax](http://www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax);
- If the estate is likely to be contested;
- If there are any trusts in the Will;
- If there are any missing beneficiaries;
- If any work needs to be carried to create a family tree and trace beneficiaries under an intestacy.

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<b>Likely Disbursements (costs paid to other organisations)</b>		
Probate Court fee		£155*
Copies of the Grant of Probate (usually one copy purchased for each asset)		50p each
Oath fees		£7 per Executor or £5 per Administrator
Section 27 Notices advertisements (protect against unexpected claim from unknown creditors and vary for different publications)		£200 (approx)
<b>Examples of costs charged for different types of estate:</b>		
	<b>Number of hours (est)</b>	<b>Cost (est)</b>
The person who has died leaves a Will naming two beneficiaries; owns a property and two bank accounts; no inheritance tax to pay.	10 to 15 hours	£1,500 to £2,500
The person who has died leaves a Will naming several beneficiaries; does not own a property, but has a number of shares, bank accounts and other investments; inheritance tax is payable.	30 to 35 hours	£5,000 to £6,000
The person who has died does not leave a Will; beneficiaries have to be traced; owns a property, bank accounts and life policies	20 to 30 hours	£3,500 to £5,000
<b>We do not make any additional charges for sending bank transfers or checking proof of your identity.</b>		
<p>*In England and Wales, probate fees will, from April 2019, be paid as a sliding scale depending on how much the estate is worth, rather than as a flat fee. The fee currently paid is a flat fee of £155.</p> <p>The new fees will depend on the amount the estate is worth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estates worth less than <b>£50,000</b> will pay nothing.</li> <li>• Estates worth from <b>£50,000 up to £300,000</b> will pay £250.</li> <li>• Estates worth from <b>£300,000 up to £500,000</b> will pay £750.</li> <li>• Estates worth from <b>£500,000 up to £1 million</b> will pay £2,500.</li> <li>• Estates worth from <b>£1 million up to £1.6 million</b> will pay £4,000.</li> <li>• Estates worth from <b>£1.6 million up to £2 million</b> will pay £5,000.</li> <li>• Estates worth more than <b>£2 million</b> will pay £6,000.</li> </ul>		