

## PROBATE COSTS GUIDANCE

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.

### Legal fees

**(All legal fees are subject to VAT at 20%)**

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:

#### Solicitor

Sarah Arundel	£190 per hour
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#### Chartered Legal Executive

Susan Hudson	£190 per hour
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#### Probate Assistants

Kim Marley	£100 per hour
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Sandra Blackburn	£80 per hour
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### Fees for applying for the Grant of Probate, collecting and distributing the assets

The exact costs will depend on the individual circumstances of the matter. We will provide you with a detailed 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 (plus VAT of £300, a total of £1,800) to £15,000 (plus VAT of £3,000, a total of £18,000).

There are some typical examples below to help you understand how this might apply.

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)	£1.50 each								
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>									
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Number of hours (typically)</th> <th>Cost (typically)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10 to 15 hours</td> <td>£1,500 (plus VAT of £300) to £2,500 (plus VAT of £500)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30 to 35 hours</td> <td>£5,000 (plus VAT of £1,000) to £6,000 (plus VAT of £1,200)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20 to 30 hours</td> <td>£3,500 (plus VAT of £700) to £5,000 (plus VAT of £1,000)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Number of hours (typically)	Cost (typically)	10 to 15 hours	£1,500 (plus VAT of £300) to £2,500 (plus VAT of £500)	30 to 35 hours	£5,000 (plus VAT of £1,000) to £6,000 (plus VAT of £1,200)	20 to 30 hours	£3,500 (plus VAT of £700) to £5,000 (plus VAT of £1,000)
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The person who has died leaves a Will naming two beneficiaries; owns a property and two bank accounts; no inheritance tax to pay.									
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.									
The person who has died does not leave a Will; beneficiaries have to be traced; owns a property, bank accounts and life policies									
<b>We do not make any additional charges for sending bank transfers or checking proof of your identity.</b>									
<p>* On 8 July 2021, a consultation was published by the Ministry of Justice seeking views on proposals to align the fees for applications for grants of probate into a single fee that is set at cost recovery. Under the proposals, all applications for grants of representation, whether by professionals or lay applicants, would be charged at £273. The consultation closes on 23 September 2021 and subject to the outcome, it is proposed that the fee changes would be introduced in early 2022.</p>									