

Coping with the death of someone close to you is emotionally difficult and if that is not hard enough you also then need to deal with their estate. If you do not know what practical steps you must take it can make the situation far worse. There are also many legal requirements that need to be attended to and often it seems like there is just too much paperwork for you to be able to cope.

We offer:

A personal approach which ensures you deal not only with an experienced professional with the necessary legal skills to deal effectively with the administration of the estate, but someone who is empathetic to your situation and understands how difficult it can be for you having to deal with the affairs of someone close to you who has died.

We provide a clear indication at the very outset of the time scale to complete the administration of the estate and a clear indication at the very outset of the cost to complete the administration of the estate. For information on the process of administering the estate of someone who has died please see The Law Society Guide for Probate. (<https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/for-the-public/commonlegal-issues/probate/>)

The Team

Many of our fee-earning team are STEP members, demonstrating a commitment to specialist training and qualifications in this field of work. None of the team conduct work for other departments; we believe that Wills and Probate work is a dedicated area of law that requires specialist knowledge.

Probate Fees

We have sought to provide an estimate of the costs likely to be incurred. However, our time is billed at an hourly rate, and that rate depends on the seniority of the person attending. Where administration can be dealt with by junior staff senior staff will delegate to protect costs escalating. However, if there are complex aspects to a case these will be dealt with by a suitably qualified person, such that costs could range significantly depending on the issue and how it is to be dealt with. We can give you a more accurate quote once we have more information and would regularly update you as the matter progressed.

As part of our Grant Only Application fee we will:

- Provide you with a dedicated and experienced probate lawyer to work on your matter
- Identify the legally appointed executors and beneficiaries
- Accurately identify and value the assets and liabilities of the estate
- Accurately identify the type of Probate application you will require
- Obtain the relevant documents required to make the application
- Complete the Probate Application and the relevant HMRC forms
- Draft a legal oath or Statement of Truth for the Personal Representatives to swear/sign
- Make the application to the Probate Court on your behalf
- Obtain the Probate and send one copy to each Executor

If we are instructed to fully administer the estate, we would then also go on to;

- Collect and distribute all assets in the estate
- Provide appropriate Estate Accounts

We may also be instructed to attend to the income tax position of the estate, register any trusts arising under the Will or intestacy, register any trusts against real estate and deal with eh land Registry.

Estimate of Costs for a Grant Only Application	
To obtain a Grant: Where there is a non-taxable estate (whether or not there is a Will), our prices would range between:	£1,500 - £5,000 +VAT at 20%
To obtain a Grant and deal with administration of the estate: Where we are required to obtain the Grant to deal with getting in assets, paying bills, notifying third parties, paying legacies, placing advertisements etc. Where no inheritance tax is payable our prices would range between:	£3,500 - £10,000 +VAT at 20% plus disbursements
Estimate of Costs for a taxable estate	
To obtain a Grant for a taxable estate: Where the estate is taxable, we will deal with calculating the inheritance tax (but not any other taxes) and obtaining the Grant. Our prices would range between:	£3,500 - £8,000 plus disbursements +VAT at 20%
To obtain a Grant and deal with administration of the estate: Where we are required to obtain the Grant, including handling inheritance tax, collecting in the assets, paying bills and liabilities, dealing with third parties, paying legacies and placing advertisements then our prices would range between:	£5,500 - £15,000 +VAT at 20% Plus disbursements

Timescales

On average, most estates are dealt with within 9 – 12 months. Typically, obtaining the grant of probate takes 6 – 9 months. Collecting assets then follows, which can take between 2 – 4 months. Once this has been done, we can distribute the assets, which normally takes 1 -2

months. If the matter is more complex, or we are engaged to assist with further tax planning for the beneficiaries, it can take longer to administer the estate.

Disbursements	
Disbursements are costs related to your matter that are payable to third parties, such as court fees.	Probate application fee and office copies of £313.50 (non-VATABLE)
Other Fees that will be charged: Client Onboarding: Beneficiary Identification Fee:	£24.00 (inclusive of VAT) per person £9.60 (inclusive of VAT) per person
We will notify you of any other third-party disbursements and seek your consent to incur them. Examples include placing Statutory Notices, lost share certificate indemnities, professional valuation fees.	We handle the payment of the disbursements on your behalf to ensure a smoother process.

Factors that can affect the complexity of the case and legal costs include the number of beneficiaries and if the deceased owned more than one property. To give you an example, for estates where:

- There is a valid will
- There is no more than one property
- There are no more than 3 bank or building society accounts
- There are no other intangible assets
- There are 2-4 beneficiaries
- There are no disputes between beneficiaries on division of assets

our costs will be at the lower end of our fee range. If there are multiple beneficiaries, two or more properties, multiple bank accounts, or large holdings of certificated shares, our costs will be at the higher end of our range.

Dealing with the sale or transfer of any property in the estate is not included. [Learn more about our conveyancing services and fees \(click here\)](#)