

WILLS, PROBATE AND LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY COSTS

(Fees are applicable as of 1st November 2017 but may be subject to change)

WILLS	FIXED FEE	TOTAL COST
Single Will	£175+VAT	£210
Mirror Wills (for example, Husband & Wife)	£325+VAT	£390
Codicil (minor changes only)	£100+VAT	£120
Mirror Codicils (for example, Husband & Wife)	£170+VAT	£204
Notice of Severance	£100+VAT	£120
1975 Act Statement	£100+VAT	£120

The above prices are for indicative purposes. There may be factors that increase the basic costs, such as inclusion of discretionary trusts or a large number of beneficiaries in your will.

PROBATE ONLY	FIXED FEE	TOTAL COST
Application for Grant of Probate. This fee is only applicable where there is no inheritance tax liability and all information regarding the estate is provided by you. Alternatively a full administration service is available, chargeable on an hourly rate. (see below*)	£595+VAT	£714
Additional Probate registry fees (no VAT)	£155	£155
Renunciation/ Notice of Power Reserved	£80+VAT	£96
Affidavit (due execution/ plight and condition, etc)	£100+VAT	£120

ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATE OR APPLICATION FOR PROBATE WITH FULL IHT ACCOUNTS	FIXED FEE	TOTAL COST
*Chargeable on a time spent basis: Plus Value Element (as per Law Society guidelines)	£200 per hour +VAT	

LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY	FIXED FEE	TOTAL COST
Includes preparation of a single LPA and the registration of the LPA at the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) Discounts are available for multiple LPAs prepared at the same time (i.e. Husband and Wife)	£450+VAT	£540
Additional OPG registration fee per LPA (no VAT)	£82	£82

HOME OR HOSPITAL VISITS	FIXED FEE	TOTAL COST
Home or hospital visits are charged at	£75+VAT	£90

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PROBATE ONLY

We can help you through this difficult legal process by obtaining the Grant of Probate on your behalf, leaving you to collect the assets and distribute the estate personally. This fixed fee service is suitable for estates where there is no inheritance tax liability and all information regarding the assets and value of the estate is provided by you.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

The cost is £595 + VAT which covers the work up to and including issue of the Grant of Probate or letters of administration. There may be other additional costs, for example if an executor wishes to renounce probate (£80 + VAT) or if an affidavit is required concerning the circumstances surrounding the condition or execution of the will (£100 + VAT)

Disbursements are costs relating to the matter that are payable to third parties such as the probate application fee (currently £155 + 50p for each sealed copy) and the fee for swearing your oath (on average £7 per executor)

As part of our fixed fee we will:-

- Provide you with a dedicated and experienced probate lawyer to work on your matter
- Identify the legally appointed executors or administrators
- Accurately identify the type of Probate application you will require
- Obtain from you the relevant information required to make the application
- Complete the Probate Application and the relevant HMRC forms
- Draft a legal oath for you to swear
- Make the application to the Probate Court on your behalf
- Obtain the Probate and securely send the original and sealed copies to you

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

We are usually able to prepare the HMRC account and Oath for Executors within 7 days of all the information being provided by you. We aim to lodge these documents at the Probate Registry within a further 7 days after the Oath is sworn by you. The Probate Registry are currently processing the applications in approximately 2-3 weeks. When the Grant is received it will be forwarded to you to personally deal with the administration of the estate

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FULL ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATE

We can handle the full administration of the estate on behalf of the Executors or Administrators. As part of this service we will:-

- Provide you with a dedicated and experienced probate lawyer to work on your matter
- Identify the legally appointed executors or administrators
- Accurately identify the type of Probate application you will require
- Ascertain the value and nature of the assets
- Obtain the relevant information required to make the application
- Complete the Probate Application and the relevant HMRC forms
- Arrange to make a payment on account of Inheritance Tax, if required
- Draft a legal oath for you to swear
- Make the application to the Probate Court on your behalf
- Obtain the Probate document and lodge with the asset holders
- Collect the assets and pay any remaining tax and liabilities
- Prepare Estate Accounts and distribute to beneficiaries

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Our current hourly rate is £200 + VAT. It is difficult to estimate how many hours of work will be necessary to complete the administration of an estate and the exact cost will depend upon the individual circumstances of the matter and whether any problems arise; for example, regarding the interpretation of the Will, if a dispute arises between beneficiaries or if a claim is made against the estate by a relative or some other person.

As a general guide the total time spent on administering an average estate is usually between 10 hours (£2,000) and 20 hours (£4,000) + VAT. An average estate is where:-

- There is a valid will
- There is no more than one property
- There are no more than 8 bank or building society accounts
- There are no other intangible assets
- There are between 2 and 6 beneficiaries
- There are no disputes between beneficiaries on division of assets.
- There is no inheritance tax payable and the executors do not need to submit a full account to HMRC

On estates which are more complex, i.e. where there is no will, multiple properties and assets and a large number of beneficiaries, or where full HMRC accounts are required and inheritance tax payable, the anticipated time is likely to be between 15 hours (£3,000) and 35 hours (£7,000) + VAT

We will be able to provide you with a more accurate quote after we have more information about the estate.

Disbursements are costs related to your matter that are payable to third parties and may include:-

- The Probate application fee £155
- Additional copies of the grant 50p each

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- Trustee Act Notices in the London Gazette and local newspapers (varies but usually in the region of £200-£300)
- Land Registry searches £3 per property
- Commissioners fee for swearing Oath (£7 per executor)

Potential additional costs:-

- The sale or transfer costs of any property in the estate will be dealt with by our conveyancing team and quoted separately
- In accordance with Law Society suggested guidelines an additional percentage charge may be applied to our final bill, based on the gross value of the assets collected or transferred. The average percentages are 0.5% on the residence and 1% on the remaining assets although we often reduce the value charges, depending on the circumstances and the complexity of the estate.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

The time from the date of instruction to completion of the administration will vary widely from case to case. On average, a simple estate with no property to sell may be finalised within 3-6 months. Some complex estates can take 12-24 months to bring to a conclusion.

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