

## Probate

### Applying for the grant, collecting and distributing the assets

No estate is the same. Because of this, we cannot give you a reliable estimate of the cost until we have details of the estate. For example, if there is one beneficiary and no property, costs will be at the lower end of the range. If there are multiple beneficiaries, a property and multiple bank accounts, costs will be at the higher end. Typically, total costs estimated at £5,500 - £8,250 (plus VAT and disbursements), assuming no unexpected complications. This is based upon the work taking between 10 to 15 hours at £550 per hour.

VAT is charged @ 20%.

We can handle the full process for you. This estimate assumes that:

- There is a valid Will;
- There is no more than one property;
- There are no more than 5 bank or building society accounts;
- There are no other intangible assets;
- There are 1-3 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 and the executors do not need to submit a full account to HMRC; and
- There are no claims made against the estate.

### Disbursements

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

Disbursements will include (plus VAT where applicable):

- Probate application fee of £155 (excluding VAT);
- Bankruptcy-only Land Charges Department searches (£1 per beneficiary) (plus VAT);

- £84.60 Post in The London Gazette – Protects against unexpected claims from unknown creditors (plus VAT);
- £100 (estimated) Post in a Local Newspaper – This also helps to protect against unexpected claims (plus VAT).

### **Potential additional costs**

If there is no Will, or the estate consists of any shareholdings (stocks and bonds), there are 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 £0.50 (1 per asset usually).

Dealing with the sale or transfer of any freehold or leasehold property in the estate is not included.

### **How long will this take?**

On average, estates that fall within this range are dealt with within 2-4 months. Typically, obtaining the grant of probate takes 3-5 weeks although as a result of delays arising because Court staff are working from home, be advised that the issue of Grants is taking substantially longer. Collecting assets then follows, which can take between 2-4 weeks. Once this has been done, we can distribute the assets, which normally takes 2-4 weeks.

### **Meet the Team**

Our Probate Team is headed up by Neil Sampson. Neil has more than 40 years' experience of probate work. Neil qualified as a solicitor in 1983 having worked in the law for the previous ten years, he joined Rosenblatt as a partner in 1994. He acts as the executor of estates when appointed by Will, and represents Executors and Administrators generally.

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