

The following information is published in line with the SRA Transparency Rules which came into force on 6th December 2018 to provide guidance in terms of our probate fees.

As it is not necessarily the case that a small estate is simple to administer or that a large estate is complex, we simply charge for work required at an agreed hourly rate based on the experience of the person who undertakes the work. Our current hourly rates are:

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| Directors (acting as Executor) | £300 + 20% vat |
| Partners and Consultants | £275 + 20% vat |
| Senior Associates and Solicitors | £220 + 20% vat |
| Trainee Solicitors and other Fee Earners | £190 + 20% vat |

Key stages

Every estate is different which makes it difficult to accurately estimate the cost of work before we meet with you to ascertain the work we anticipate will be involved. The exact cost will vary from each estate due to individual circumstances surrounding the estate and therefore a bespoke cost estimate will be given to you at the outset of your case and will be reviewed regularly throughout your case.

The fees set out below cover work in relation to the key stages of administering an estate as follows:

- Identification and valuation of assets and debts;
- Preparation and submission of the appropriate Inheritance Tax account (and arrangements for payment of tax where applicable);
- Preparation and submission of the application for the Grant of Probate (or Letters of Administration);
- Collection of assets (or arranging transfer to beneficiaries, as appropriate);
- Payment of debts due at the date of death and expenses arising as part of the administration;
- Payment of any legacies contained in the Will;
- Attending to any income or capital gain tax requirements (if applicable);
- Preparation of an Estate Account; and
- Distribution of the Estate to the beneficiaries.



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These stages are only an indication and they may not all be required in each case. You may also wish to handle parts of the administration yourself and only obtain our advice in relation to some steps. A quote can therefore be tailored to your individual needs.

As a general guide, our fees for administering an estate are likely to fall within the following ranges:

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| Simple Case | Ranging between £1,000-£4,000 + 20% vat |
| A full inheritance tax account is not required – usually where the value of the estate is less than £325,000 or less than a £1,000,000 and all passing to a surviving spouse – and there are no or minimal complicating factors – see ‘Other Factors’ below. | |

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| Medium Complexity Case | Ranging between £5,000-£15,000 + 20% vat |
| A full inheritance tax account is required and/or there are several complicating factors but there are no foreign assets and no claims for reliefs such as Business Property Relief or Agricultural Property relief – see ‘Other Factors’ below. | |

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| High Complexity Case | Ranging between £20,000-£45,000 + 20% vat |
| A full inheritance tax account is required and/or there are several complicating factors and/or foreign assets and and/or claim for reliefs such as Business Property Relief or Agricultural Property relief – see ‘Other Factors’ below. | |

The above fees do not include our charges for selling properties. This is because it is more economical for the estate for this to be dealt with by our specialist Residential Property Department.

Other Factors

Complicating factors which might increase costs include:

- If we are provided with a large amount of initial financial paperwork and are asked to analyse to identify the assets and liabilities (particularly if the paperwork has not been organised);
- Significant gifts having been made in the 7 years before death;
- The existence of any trusts which may impact on the value of the estate for tax purposes;
- When there are large number of assets and liabilities to be dealt with;
- Where there are Foreign Assets;
- Where the estates include one or more interest in a business;
- If there is no will and the deceased had a large family or no immediate family;
- Dealing with complex issues including, but not limited to, applying for inheritance tax exemptions and reliefs (e.g., Business Property Relief, Agricultural Property Relief, Residence Nil Rate Band, Taper Relief); and/or
- Dealing with disputes within the family regarding the Will, claims for Financial Provision or regarding the administration of the estate generally.

Disbursements

Disbursements are costs relating to your matter that are payable to a third party such as court fees. We handle the payment of disbursements on your behalf to ensure a smoother process. If funds are available to the estate, we will use these, but in some cases, we may ask you to pay the cost of those disbursements to us up front before we incur them on your behalf. If we ask you to do this, we will arrange a repayment once funds are available to the estate.

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| Probate application fee | £300 (no VAT applies) if the value of the estate is over £5000. There is no fee is if the estate is £5000 or less. |
| Copies of grant | £1.50 each (no VAT applies) |
| Trustee Act Advertisements (London Gazette and Local Newspaper) | £200.00 per notice. Please note this is an estimated cost inclusive of VAT. |
| Land Registry Title | £6.00-£12.00 plus 20% VAT per property |
| Bankruptcy searches | £2.00 plus 20% VAT per beneficiary |
| ID/AML check | £7.20 per person for a British National. |
| Land Registration Fee | Should the property be assented/transferred from the Estate to the beneficiary, the land registration fee will be confirmed once the value of the property has been confirmed. |



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Timescale

The time it takes from your initial instructions to the distribution of the estate depends largely on the complexity of the estate and any tax payment and reporting requirements.

Simple estates can be dealt with within a few months, whilst very complex estates can take some years to complete. You may have heard of an 'executor's year'. Whilst this period is not enforceable by law, it is generally accepted as a reasonable period for the administration of an estate.

We will be able to give a more accurate timescale on instruction once we have established the likely level of work involved and this may be revised as the administration progresses.