

PROBATE (UNCONTESTED) PRICING

Our charges:

Our overall fees vary depending upon how complex your case is and what you would like us to do. For a free quote specifically tailored to your circumstances please email info@lex-law.co.uk. We would be more than happy to discuss your case.

To give you an idea of how we charge however, and to comply the SRA price transparency rules, we have set out below details of our fees.

Our charges are made up of:

- a) our fees for the legal work;
- b) 'disbursements' - disbursements are costs related to your matter that are payable to other people, such as probate application fees. We handle the payment of the disbursements on your behalf to ensure a smoother process.

Note we are not VAT registered so do not charge VAT on our fees. Where VAT is referred to below it is therefore only going to be included in disbursements which carry VAT, where applicable. Please note that where VAT applies, this will be charged at the applicable rate, which is currently 20%.

How much do we charge?

Our fees

Standard probate work

Applying for a 'Grant of Probate' and collecting and distributing assets in a 'simple' matter is the most common type of probate work which we deal with. Namely, where someone has passed away leaving a valid will which is not disputed, the beneficiaries can be easily ascertained and there is not a very large or complex estate to divide up.

Our fees for this work will either be agreed with you as a fixed fee at the start of our work together or based on how much time it takes to deal with your case.

Our standard hourly rates are £300 for one of our solicitors.

Normally this sort of matter takes between 10 and 15 hours work at £300 per hour. The fixed fee option is therefore likely to be in the region of £3000 to £4500 which we can confirm once we have a clearer idea of the estate.

The fixed fee offered will depend upon how straight forward or complicated the case is. For example, if someone has died leaving only one beneficiary in an undisputed Will and no property, then the fixed fee will be in the region of £3000 because it will be simple to administer. If there are multiple beneficiaries, a property and multiple bank accounts however, the fixed fee offered will be in the region of £4500 even if the Will is still not disputed.

We would still be delighted to work with you in more complicated matters but would need to give you a quotation for the work tailored to your individual circumstances. Please contact us to learn more.

Disbursements

Disbursements are payments that we make to third parties on your behalf. These are separate payments for which the estate is liable in addition to our costs as described above.

Typical disbursements in Probate matters are:

- Probate application fee, which is currently: £300 for estates valued over £5000; There is no fee if the estate is £5,000 or less.
- Swearing of the oath fee, which is £5 for each executor;
- Land registry search fees: £7 per search
- Legal notice which requires posting in The London Gazette (this can help protect against unexpected claims from unknown creditors): £125.80
- Approx £185 (depending on the paper) Post in a Local Newspaper – This also helps to protect against unexpected claims.

Other costs to consider

Please note that the costs estimates above do not include any additional costs incurred in disposing of estate assets such as the sale of any property or business.

How long will this take?

Generally speaking, 'simple' estate matters such as those described above can normally be dealt with within 4 to 12 months. This is broken down into the following stages, with rough time estimates for each stage as follows:

- applying for the grant of probate: 3 to 6 months
- Collecting assets then follows, which can take about 3 months
- Preparing the estate accounts.

Key stages of your case

The precise stages involved vary according to the circumstances. The guidance on our fees above covers the work in relation to the following key stages a 'simple' probate process:

- Identifying the executors and beneficiaries
- Checking the type of Probate application you will require
- Obtaining the relevant documents required to make the application
- Completing the Probate Application and the relevant HMRC forms
- Drafting a legal oath for swearing
- Making the application for probate
- Obtaining the Probate and distributing copies as necessary
- Collecting and distributing the assets of the estate

It would not normally be necessary to undertake other work or incur costs other than those described above. However, we would be very happy to provide you with a more tailored quote for all stages of your particular case once we know about your specific circumstances.

Who will be dealing with my matter?

Your case will be handled by a trusted experienced Solicitor who deals with Probate work. Once we know who will be handling your case for you we will introduce you to them and provide you with full details of their background and qualifications.