



**HADFIELD BULL & BULL**  
**SOLICITORS & ADVOCATES**

**Probate and Estate Administration Fees**

**Applying for a Grant of Probate, collecting and distributing the estate assets**

*Hourly rates*

Our fees for dealing with the administration of an estate from start to finish tend to be charged on a “time spent” basis and will depend on various factors, including the complexity of your case. As a broad estimate, such cases tend to last between 13 and 52 weeks. At £175 an hour (plus VAT), our fees for probate services tend to be in the region of £1,750 - £3,500 (plus VAT).

Our exact fees will depend on the circumstances of your matter. For example, if there is one beneficiary and no property, costs are likely to be towards the lower end of the range. If there are multiple beneficiaries, a property and multiple bank accounts, costs will be higher.

*Contingent rates*

For estates over £100,000 in value, we can offer you the option of choosing to elect for our fees to be charged on the basis of the percentage value of the estate. The percentage that will apply will depend on the circumstances of your case, but usually will be in the range of 1.75% - 2.25% of the gross value of the estate plus VAT.

These estimates are for estates where:-

- There is a valid will.
- There is no more than one unencumbered property.
- There are no more than 3 bank or building society accounts.
- There are Premium Bonds.

- There are no other assets, including shareholdings or personal effects of value.
- There are no more than 5 beneficiaries overall and no more than 2 residuary 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.
- There are no claims made against the estate.

Potential additional costs

The above estimates may be exceeded, particularly if:-

- There is no will and it is necessary to apply for a Grant of Letters of Administration.
- There is more than one Executor.
- It is necessary for us to arrange an unoccupied buildings insurance policy.
- It is necessary for us to undertake any work outside our offices.
- Dealing with the sale or transfer of any property in the estate is not included.

As part of our services we will:

- Provide you with a dedicated and experienced probate lawyer to work on your matter
- Identify the legally appointed executors or administrators and beneficiaries
- Accurately identify the type of application you will require
- Obtain the relevant documents required to make the application
- Complete the Probate application and the relevant HMRC forms
- Prepare a Statement of Truth for you to sign
- Make the application to the Probate Court on your behalf
- Extract the Grant of Probate
- Collect in and distribute all assets in the estate

### Disbursements

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

- Probate application fee of £155.
- Land Registry fee of £3 for a copy of the register of title.
- Bankruptcy-only Land Charges Department Searches (£2 per beneficiary).
- £65 approximately for a Section 27 Notice published in The London Gazette – protects against unexpected claims from unknown creditors.
- £125 approximately for Section 27 Notice published in a Local Newspaper – This also helps to protect against unexpected claims.

### How long will this take?

On average, estates that fall within this range are dealt with within 3-9 months. Typically, obtaining the Grant of Probate takes 6-12 weeks. Collecting assets then follows, which for assets other than property can take between 2-6 weeks. Once this has been done, any debts and liabilities can be settled and the deceased's tax position and any tax liability arising in the administration period can be agreed and settled before we distribute the assets, This can typically take 6 – 26 weeks.

### **Applying for just the grant of probate**

We can also offer you the option of instructing us to obtain the Grant of Probate only, where you provide full information in relation to the composition and value of the estate as at the date of death. Our fees for this service are fixed and vary according to the complexity of the estate and whether an Inheritance Tax Account is required. Please contact us to obtain a quote.