

Uncontested Probate

Our fees in relation to uncontested probate (or letters of administration) will depend on the amount of time spent. We do not add a percentage of the value of the estate.

The amount of time a matter can take depends on a number of factors, including whether forms have to be completed for H M Revenue & Customs and on the complexity of the estate.

Some clients instruct us simply to prepare and submit the application for the Grant of Probate or Letters of Administration. Details of the likely costs are set out in **Table 1** and **Table 2**. Add VAT where marked*.

Some clients instruct us to make initial enquiries, prepare and submit the application for the Grant of Probate or Letters of Administration and then deal with the administration of the estate. Details of the likely costs are set out in **Table 3**. Add VAT where marked*.

Different hourly rates are charged for different fee earners. Details of current hourly rates are set out in **Table 4** below.

Once we know a little more about the estate in question and the work which you require us to carry out, we can give you details of the likely cost of dealing with that estate. If an unforeseen complexity arises which may affect costs, or you request additional work not covered by the initial quote, we will inform you of this and provide revised costs information.

Table 1: Obtaining the Grant of Probate only: no inheritance tax forms required

Likely fees	Services included	Disbursements - other costs payable to another organisation		Typical timescales and key stages
£500 - £1,000*	Drafting and submitting application for Grant.	Probate application fee	£273.00	Once we have the relevant information from you and forms have been approved: From application for Grant to receipt: usually, up to 16 weeks.
		Sealed copies of Grant	£1.50 per copy	
		ID checks: e-verification or full checks per person	£4.45 + VAT £17.95 + VAT	

Table 2: Obtaining the Grant of Probate only: inheritance tax forms required

Likely fees	Services included	Disbursements - other costs payable to another organisation		Typical timescales and key stages
£1,200 - £1,500*	Completing inheritance Tax forms; drafting and submitting application for Grant.	Probate application fee	£273.00	Once we have the relevant information from you and forms have been approved: From submitting inheritance tax forms to HMRC to applying for Grant: 4 to 5 weeks. From applying for Grant to receipt: usually, up to 16 weeks.
		Sealed copies of Grant	£1.50 per copy	
		ID checks: e-verification or full checks per person	£4.45 + VAT £17.95 + VAT	

Table 3: Obtaining the Grant of Probate and administering the estate

Likely fees	Services included	Disbursements - other costs payable to another organisation		Typical timescales and key stages
No inheritance tax forms required: £1,500 - £10,000* Inheritance tax forms required: £2,500 - £20,000*	Making initial enquiries regarding assets and liabilities; conducting Will search where required; arranging statutory advertisements where required; completing inheritance tax forms where required; preparing and submitting the application for the Grant of Probate or Letters of Administration and dealing with the administration of the estate: collecting the assets and/or arranging transfer to beneficiaries; settling debts and expenses; paying legacies; paying any tax due; paying the balance to the residuary beneficiaries.	Probate application fee	£273.00	Initial enquiries: 2 to 4 weeks.
		Sealed copies of Grant	£1.50 per copy	
		Land Registry search fees (if required)	£3 - £9 + VAT	From submitting inheritance tax forms to HMRC (where required) to applying for Grant: 4 to 5 weeks.
		Certainty Will Search (if required)	£105 + VAT	
		Statutory Advertisements (if required)	£200 + VAT (variable)	From applying for Grant to receipt: usually, up to 16 weeks.
		ID checks: e-verification or full checks per person	£4.45 + VAT £17.95 + VAT	
				Administration of estate: 6 weeks to 18 months, depending on the complexity of the estate.

Possible Extras and/or Potential Complications:

If any of the following matters arise, they may affect the quote:

- Missing Wills or issues regarding the validity of a Will;
- Valuation fees;
- Inheritance tax, income tax or capital gains tax;
- Outgoings relating to property pending sale (e.g. insurance, utility bills, clearance costs);
- Sale of a house or land: a separate quote can be obtained;
- Missing assets;
- The need to go through and sort out numerous old papers;
- The need to search for details of lifetime gifts which the deceased may have made;
- Difficulty in realising assets or settling liabilities;
- Difficulty in tracing beneficiaries or dealing with beneficiaries who are under age or lack capacity;
- Dealing with Trusts in which the deceased had an interest;
- The need to register the estate with the Trust Registration Service;
- Agricultural or business property, especially Lloyd’s assets which cannot be wound up for at least three years;
- Tax planning and Deeds of Variation (carrying the effect of the Will or the intestacy rules);
- Foreign assets;
- Disputes involving the estate.

Table 4: Qualifications and experience of people doing the work		
Fee earner	Qualifications	Hourly rate
Nicholas Sewell	Partner; Solicitor (admitted 1990); member of The Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners.	£260 + VAT
Christina Cox	Solicitor (admitted 2021); Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (qualified 2016).	£210 + VAT
David Neve	Associate; Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (qualified 2006).	£230 + VAT
Alaina Owen	Associate; Solicitor (admitted 2010)	£230 + VAT
Janet Strong	Associate; Solicitor (admitted 1990).	£230 + VAT
Tahira Rahman	Paralegal	£130 + VAT
Work is supervised by Nicholas Sewell who is head of the Wills and Estates department.		