

Probate and Administration of Estates

Every Estate is different and our costs will reflect such things as complexity of the administration of the estate, the number of different assets and debts and the number of beneficiaries. Typically the administration of an estate takes between six and twelve months to deal with and recently our fees have ranged from £1,000 for a simple estate to nearly £10,000 for a complex estate in excess of £1million pounds with Inheritance Tax to pay.

The basis of our charges for obtaining a Grant of Probate (where this is a Will) or Letters of Administration (where there is no Will or the named Executors have died, or are unable or unwilling to act) and dealing with the subsequent administration of the estate is the time spent dealing with the matter; this is currently charged at **£250 per hour plus VAT** each letter sent or received being charged at one tenth of an hour i.e. £25 plus VAT.

In addition, there may be disbursements and other estate expenses to pay including, in all cases where we obtain a Grant, the Court fee which is currently £155 (plus 50 pence for each additional copy of the Grant). These fees are due to increase substantially to a staged payments system based on the value of the Estate, but the date of implementation is not yet known.

See below:

Value of Estate	Current Fee	New Fee	Increase/Reduction
Under £5,000	No fee	No fee	No change
£5,000 – £50,000	£155	No fee	Reduction of £155
£50,001 - £300,000	£155	£250	Increase of £95
£300,001 - £500,000	£155	£750	Increase of £595
£500,001 - £1,000,000	£155	£2,500	Increase of £2,345
£1,000,001 - £1,600,000	£155	£4,000	Increase of £3,845
£1600,001 - £2,000,000	£155	£5,000	Increase of £4,845
Over £2,000,000	£155	£6,000	Increase of £5,845

The fee for the additional sealed copies of the Grant will also increase.

However, if you are an Executor or Administrator to an estate and just want us to obtain the Grant for you, leaving you to deal with administration of the estate, then we can do this for you on a fixed costs basis provided you provide us with all the information we require.

Our fixed costs for obtaining a Grant of Probate or Letters of Administration when a Return of Estate Information IHT 205 is required is £595 plus VAT plus the court fee. If an IHT 217 is required to claim the unused IHT allowance from a deceased spouse then an additional fee of £50 plus VAT will be charged.

Our variable fixed costs for obtaining a Grant of Probate or Letters of Administration when an Inheritance Tax Account IHT 400 and supplementary accounts are required is £795 plus VAT plus £50 plus VAT for each supplementary form.

Possible Additional Payments

1. Notices to creditors in the London Gazette and the local newspaper for the area where the deceased resided plus £300 plus VAT.
2. Bankruptcy searches per beneficiary £2.