

Probate Fees

Administration of Estates Probate Applications

Browns Solicitors have a highly experienced private client team and can advise on matters relating to Probate and the Administration of Estates.

An Estate can vary in complexity and as our services are bespoke, the following charges are intended as an outline guide, and we will provide you with a specific estimate once we have met with you to establish the individual facts and circumstances of the matter.

We do not offer fixed fees for our work on estate administration, and we do not charge our fees on a percentage of the value of the estate.

We charge on a time spent basis calculated by reference to hourly rates, currently at £350 per hour.

For a straightforward Probate matter, we estimate this would take approximately 10-15 hours and our fees would be likely to be in the region of £2,000 - £4,000 plus VAT.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples which make a Probate matter straightforward;

1. There is a valid Will;
2. There is no more than one property;
3. There are no legal issues with the Title to the property;
4. There are a small number of bank or building society accounts;
5. There are a small number of shareholdings or one share portfolio with a single investment manager;
6. Where applicable, there are share certificate's for all shareholdings;
7. There are no other intangible assets;
8. There are a small number of beneficiaries;
9. There are no disputes between beneficiaries;
10. There are no claims made against the estate;

11. There is no Inheritance Tax to pay and the Executors do not need to submit a full account to HMRC.

Where the estate is subject to Inheritance Tax and we need to submit a full account to HMRC this will take longer and accordingly our costs will be higher. If the Probate is otherwise broadly regarded as straight forward (i.e. points 1-10 above still apply), our fees are likely to be in the region of £5,000 - £8,000 plus VAT.

Where the estate is subject to Inheritance Tax and there are other factors, meaning it is not a straightforward estate, our fees are likely to be in excess of £10,000 plus VAT.

We would emphasise that we shall attempt to be transparent in all matters concerning costs and consequently our bespoke service would include a clear and written estimate once we have met with all parties and are able to obtain a better understanding of the assets of the estate.

We would also confirm that we would attend to disbursements on your behalf, including:

- i) the Probate Court fee of approximately £160
- ii) the cost of advertisements in the local newspaper to protect the Executors against unknown creditors is approximately £300
- iii) a search of the Bankruptcy Register against named beneficiaries if required, currently £2 per beneficiary
- iv) Registrar fee for missing share certificates, which are charged on an individual basis by the Registrar

Matters Excluded

We do not undertake property transactions, such as purchase or sale of land and property. However, we are able to transfer a property to the Executors or beneficiaries as part of the appropriation of assets.

Timing

It can be difficult to provide an accurate timescale of the administration of an estate, as we are dependent upon the speed at which third parties provide information or process documentation. This can be particularly problematic in an estate with extensive share portfolio's, which are not managed through a stockbroking firm.

On average, we would expect to have obtained a Grant of Probate within 6 months of instructions and aim to complete the distribution of an estate within 12 months, unless it proves unduly complex.

We would look to provide you with an estimate of the likely timescale at the time of instruction.

We do not undertake matters which fall outside of the provisions of the Non-Contentious Probate Rules.

For further information please contact info@brownsols.co.uk or telephone 0208 464 7432