

# PROBATE

We can help you through this difficult process by obtaining the Grant of Probate on your behalf.

## AS PART OF OUR SERVICE WE WILL:

- Provide you with a dedicated probate lawyer to work on your matter
- Identify the legally appointed executors or administrators and beneficiaries
- Identify the type of Probate application you will require
- Obtain the relevant documents required to make the Probate Application
- Complete the Probate Application and the relevant HMRC forms
- Draft a legal oath for you to swear
- Make the application to the Probate Court on your behalf
- Obtain Probate
- Collect and distribute all assets in the estate

## HOW MUCH DOES THIS SERVICE COST?

We charge **£4,800** (incl. VAT).

However, this fee is calculated for estates where:

- There is a valid will
- There is no more than one property
- All the assets are based in the UK
- There are no more than 3 bank or building society accounts
- There are no other intangible assets
- There are 1-2 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

On average, estates that fall within this range are dealt with within 3-6 months. Typically, obtaining the grant of probate takes 4-8 weeks. Collecting assets then follows, which can take between 4-8 weeks. Once this has been done, we can distribute the assets, which normally takes 4-8 weeks.

## BREAKDOWN OF COSTS

- Legal fees £4,000
- VAT on legal fees £800
- Disbursements (approx. £478 in total):
  - Probate court fee of £160 (approx.).
  - £7 Swearing of the oath (per executor).
  - Bankruptcy-only Land Charges Department searches (£2 per beneficiary).
  - £100 (approx.) Post in The London Gazette – Protects against unexpected claims from unknown creditors.
  - £200 (approx.) Post in a Local Newspaper – This also helps to protect against claims from unknown creditors.

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.

## **POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL COSTS**

- If there is no will or the estate consists of any share holdings (stocks and bonds) there is likely to be additional costs that could range significantly depending on the estate and how it is to be dealt with. We can give you a more accurate quote once we have more information.
- If any additional copies of the grant are required, they will cost £0.50 (1 per asset usually).
- Dealing with the sale or transfer of any property in the estate is not included.
- Unexpected claims.
- Assets/liabilities that only come to light after the Probate application has been submitted

## **OUR PRIVATE CLIENT TEAM**

Please log on to [www.downslaw.co.uk/our-people/private-client/](http://www.downslaw.co.uk/our-people/private-client/)

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