

R. BELL & SON SOLICITORS

Information on Fixed Fee Prices & Services 2022

NON-CONTENTIOUS PROBATE (where all assets are in the UK)

We offer two levels of service: -

1. **Fixed Fee Probate Service** limited to us obtaining the Grant of Probate (or Grant of Letters of Administration for intestate estates (i.e., where the deceased did not leave a Will)

	£
Our Charges	500.00
VAT	100.00
Probate Court fee	273.00
Sealed copies of Grant @ £1.50 (several copies will usually be required)	3.00 (for two copies)
TOTAL	876.00

Disbursements

Disbursements are costs related to your matter that are payable to third party parties such as Probate Court fees. We handle payment of disbursements on your behalf to ensure a smoother process.

2. **Full Administration Service** – charged at an hourly rate

We will apply for the Grant, collect in the estate assets, settle all liabilities and distribute the estate in accordance with the Will, or if there is no Will, in accordance with the Intestacy Rules. We anticipate this will take between 5 and 15 hours work at £220.00 per hour. Total costs estimate £1,100.00 - £3,300 plus VAT.

Each estate is different and the exact cost will depend on the individual circumstances of the matter. For example, if there is one beneficiary and four assets/no property, the administration costs will be at the lower end of the range. If there are multiple beneficiaries, a property and significant assets, costs will be at the higher end.

We will handle the full process for you. This estimate is for estates where: -

- there is a valid Will
- there is no more than one property
- there are no more than ten bank/building society accounts
- there are no other intangible assets
- there are between 1-5 beneficiaries

- there are no disputes between beneficiaries on division of assets. If disputes arise this is likely to lead to an increase in cost
- there is no inheritance tax to pay and the Executors do not need to submit a full Inheritance Tax Account to HM Revenues and Customs
- there are no claims made against the estate

In addition, the following disbursements are payable: -

	£
Probate Court fee	273.00
Sealed copy Grant (each)	1.50
Bankruptcy Search (per beneficiary)	2.00
Creditors notices (to protect against claims from unknown creditors):-	
London Gazette	84.60
Local Newspaper (estimate)	200.00

Potential Additional Costs

- If there is no Will or the estate consists of any share holdings (stocks/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 provide a more accurate estimate once we have more information.
- If the estate comprises a large number of assets more sealed copies of the Grant will be required (e.g., 10 copies would incur a charge of £15.00)
- Dealing with the sale or transfer of any property in the estate is not included. We will be pleased to provide a competitive fixed fee quote for the sale or transfer of a property if required.

How long will it take to obtain the Grant?

On average, estates that fall within this range are dealt with within 3-5 months (assuming there is no property to sell). Typically, obtaining the Grant of Probate takes 6-8 weeks. Collecting assets and settling liabilities then follows, which can take between 6-10 weeks. Once this has been done we can distribute the estate.

As part of our service we will: -

- Provide you with a dedicated and experienced Probate Solicitor to work on your matter
- Identify the legally appointed Executors or Administrators and beneficiaries
- Accurately identify the type of probate application you will require.
- Obtain the relevant documents required to make the application.
- Complete the Probate application and the relevant HM Revenue and Customs declaration.
- Prepare the Legal Statement for you to sign.
- Make the application to the Probate Registry on your behalf.
- Obtain the Grant and provide you with a copy.

- If you have elected the full administration service we will collect in the assets, settle all liabilities, place creditors notices (if so instructed), carry out bankruptcy searches, prepare an estate account for your approval and distribute the estate to the legal beneficiaries.

Who will carry out the work on my behalf?

Mrs Diane Brough (Partner) looks after all the Firm's Probate work. She qualified as a Solicitor in 1990 and has over 30 years' experience in private client work, specialising in Wills and Probate. Mrs Brough completes annual professional development courses in Probate and Estate Administration to keep abreast of changes in the law/practice in order to offer the best possible professional service to our clients. Mrs Brough is a member of Solicitors for the Elderly.