

Probate Services - Hourly Rate

We can assist Executors in obtaining a Grant of Probate and administering the Estate and offer this service at an hourly rate of **£250 plus VAT @ 20% making a total of £300** per hour. We only charge you for the time we spend dealing with the estate with no “value” element or percentage uplift. We will not charge you for our initial half hour meeting with you.

The total fee will depend on the level of involvement and assistance you require from East Devon Law. We aim to work with the Executors to assist them and encourage them to be involved in the process which saves time and consequently money.

What is included:

Administration of a typical estate includes:

- Obtaining valuations of the deceased’s assets and liabilities
- preparing the documents required to apply for a Grant of Probate (including any Inheritance Tax forms required)
- arranging to pay Inheritance Tax on behalf of the Executors
- applying for the Grant of Probate
- registering the Grant with asset holders and calling in assets and paying liabilities
- obtaining an IHT clearance certificate
- preparing Estate Accounts
- distributing the estate assets in accordance with the Will

Additional work will be required if the estate is more complicated. For example:

- Estates where there are in excess of 4 beneficiaries, or any of the beneficiaries lack capacity under the Mental Health Act or are minors or live overseas
- Estates where there are missing beneficiaries
- Estates that include the creation of a will trust

Each estate is different, and you will therefore receive a more accurate written estimate once we have further details.

Additional Expenses payable to other organisations

- Electronic ID Verification Fee: we use a commercial agency to electronically verify your identity. The fee is £8.95 plus VAT per Executor.
- Probate Court fees: these vary according to the value of the estate and whether you make a Personal Application, or it is processed through us. The current fee for an application made by us is £273 based on an estate with a net value over £5,000. The fee for a Personal Application for probate is also £273 for an estate with a net value over £5,000. Office copy Probate Grants cost £1.50 each in both cases.
- Land Registry office copy entry fees: These may be required to establish the ownership of a property which forms part of the estate if the title deeds are not available. Each document costs £3 to obtain from the Land Registry, and we

charge a £4 administration fee to cover the downloading and printing costs making a total of £7 per item plus VAT @ 20%.

- Bankruptcy search fee: to ensure that a beneficiary is not a bankrupt £2 + VAT
- Trustee Act Statutory Notices: These are to advertise for unknown creditors and will vary in each case and according to the publication used. Approximately £250.
- Bank electronic transfer charges: These will be charged when a legacy is paid direct to a beneficiary's bank account. Free for payments up to £100,000, £42 + VAT if over £100,000 and a telegraphic transfer is required.
- Photocopying: we will charge you 10p + VAT per sheet for essential copies.
- Royal Mail Special delivery fee: We use this service when sending important original documents by post e.g. sending the original Will to the Probate Court.

How long it will take

There are many factors that can affect the amount of work involved and therefore the price so that it will take longer to administer an estate if there are, for example:

- multiple beneficiaries
- multiple asset holders
- numerous shareholdings
- property clearance to arrange
- arranging insurance of a property
- settling utility bills
- liaising with valuers and estate agents.

Other factors which may increase the length of time it takes to administer the estate include:

- High value estates with complex assets
- Estates where there is no Will (intestacy) or the Will is partly invalid
- Estates that include assets located outside of the United Kingdom
- Estates where the Grant of Probate is likely to be contested. However, we can provide advice on such cases – please ask for details.

The example below assumes that there are no complications:

Example

For an estate with two Executors named in a valid Will with a net value of £1,500,000 comprising a property, bank accounts, pensions, shares, six cash beneficiaries, two residuary beneficiaries and the application for a Grant of Probate is made through us.

	Fee	VAT @ 20%	Total
East Devon Law fees: Hourly rate fee Chartered Legal Executive @ £250 per hour with estimated time of 10 hours	£2,500.00	£400.00	£2,400.00
Electronic ID Verification Fee	£17.90	£3.58	£21.48
Land Registry office copy entry fee	£7.00	£1.40	£8.40
Royal Mail Special Delivery fee	£6.85	£1.37	£8.22
Probate Court fee	£273.00	-	£273.00
Six office copies of the Probate Grant	£1.50 each	-	£9.00
Bankruptcy search fee (6 beneficiaries)	£12.00	£2.40	£14.40
Trustee Act Statutory Notices (approximate fee)	£250.00	£50.00	£300.00
Photocopying 20 sheets for Probate application	£2.00	£0.40	£2.40
	Total estimated cost including VAT		£3,036.90

Inheritance Tax may be payable. Further information can be found at www.gov.uk.

Please note this is an example of a typical estate and there may be additional costs not covered here. These include:

- Fees payable to a surveyor/valuer to obtain a valuation of the property
- Fees payable to an accountant for dealing with the deceased's tax affairs
- Conveyancing fees for the sale or transfer of a property
- Fees payable to a stockbroker to value listed shareholdings