

Please see below a list of our fees as of 01/10/2022:

- **Codicils**
  - Single Codicil from £115.00 plus VAT
  - Joint Codicils from £165.00 plus VAT
  
- **Wills**
  - Single Will from £185 plus VAT
  - Joint Wills from £250 plus VAT
  
- **Lasting Powers of Attorney**
  - Single (Finance or Health) - £350 plus VAT plus OPG fee of £82
  - Single (Finance and Health) - £650 plus VAT plus OPG fee of £164
  - Joint (Finance or Health) - £650 plus VAT plus OPG fee of £164
  - Joint (Finance and Health) - £750 plus VAT plus OPG fee of £328
  
- **Family/Asset Protection Trusts**
  - £1,400 plus VAT and disbursements
  
- **Probate & Estate Administration**
  - Grant only (simple estate – no IHT payable) - £650 plus VAT plus Probate Registry fee of £273 plus £1.50 per additional sealed copy of the grant
  - Grant only (complex estate – IHT payable) - £1,500 plus VAT plus Probate Registry fee of £273 plus £1.50 per additional sealed copy of the grant
  - Full estate administration – Fees are based on the size of the estate and the level of complexity
  
- **Court of Protection**
  - Deputyship Order - £950 plus VAT plus £365 court fee
  
- **Declarations of Trust**
  - Fixed shares from £250.00 plus VAT
  - Floating shares from £350.00 plus VAT

## **Probate**

This page sets out our range of costs when acting on your behalf in the administration of an estate.

All prices quoted on this page are subject to VAT at the current rate of 20%.

Every case is different and we cannot realistically give you an indication of how much time it will take to administer an estate until we view the exact details of the case. We have, however, provided a range of costs to give you an idea of what work is likely to be involved.

### **What will it cost?**

It can take anywhere between 10 and 20 hours to deal with the administration of the average estate at a rate of £200 per hour. In total our fees would range from of £2,000.00 – £4,000.00 (+ VAT) and disbursements. In addition we charge 0.5% of the value of any land and/or buildings in the Estate of the Deceased as well as 1% of the value of all other assets held by the deceased (e.g. Bank Accounts, Building Society Accounts, Investments etc.)

The exact cost to you will depend on the complexity of the case. So, for example if the estate has only one beneficiary, one bank account and no property or assets this will be quicker and cheaper to administer than a case with many beneficiaries, many properties and a variety of assets and bank accounts which would be more complicated and therefore more time-consuming and costly to administer.

### **What work is included in the cost?**

Our experienced Probate team will deal with all aspects of the administration of the deceased's estate for you, providing that all of the following criteria are met:

- A valid will is in existence.
- The estate is made up of no more than one property.
- The estate is made up of no more than 5 bank accounts.
- The estate has no other intangible assets.
  
- The estate has a maximum of 6 beneficiaries.
- The beneficiaries are not in dispute over the division of assets. If disputes arise this will complicate the matter and will likely mean an increase in costs.

- The estate is of a value where no inheritance tax is payable and the executors do not need to submit a full account to HMRC.
- There are no claims made against the estate.

## **Disbursements**

You will be liable for the following disbursements in addition to our legal fees:

- Probate Registry fee - £273.00.
- Additional copies of the grant - £1.50p each (1 per asset usually)
- Swearing of the oath (per executor) - £7.00 or £5.00 for the swearing of the oath (per administrator) where there is no will.
- Bankruptcy-only search fee (£2.00 per beneficiary – additional fees will apply if any beneficiary is resident abroad)
- Advertisement in The London Gazette – £80.00 to £100.00 approx this protects against unexpected claims against Personal Representatives from unknown creditors.
- Advertisement in a Local Newspaper – £75-£150 approx this also helps to protect against unexpected claims against Personal Representatives from unknown creditors.

Disbursements - these are costs related to your matter that are payable to third parties, such as court fees. Sweeney Miller will manage the payment of disbursements on your behalf to ensure a smooth and efficient process.

- If there is no will or the estate consists of any shareholdings (stocks and bonds) there are likely to be additional costs that could range significantly depending on the estate and how it is to be dealt with. We can provide you with a more detailed quote once we have more information from you.
- Dealing with the sale or transfer of any property in the estate is not included in this price. Our Property department would be happy to provide you with a competitive quote for this work should you require.

## **How long will this take?**

The average estate that meets the previously stated criteria are usually dealt with within 6 – 9 months, although if the estate comprises a property that needs to be sold then of course this may affect the timescale. Ordinarily, obtaining the grant of probate takes between 8 – 12 weeks. Collecting assets and payment of liabilities will then follow, which



can take between 2 – 4 weeks. Once this has been done (and the sale of any property has been completed) we can distribute the remaining assets to the beneficiaries of the estate.

If you would like to obtain a more accurate estimate of the likely costs involved in your case then please feel free to call our friendly and experienced Wills & Probate team to discuss your requirements in greater detail on 0191 568 2050.

### **Key contacts**

Your matter will be dealt with by Gemma Brown.

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**Gemma Brown**

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**Gemma runs our expanding Wills and Probate office based in our Sunderland office.**

**She specialises in private client work and delivers high quality Wills & Probate services, including Lasting Powers of Attorney.**

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