

Price Transparency Guidance in accordance with the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)

Transparency Rules:

We are obligated to publish information on the usual charges involved with our **probate matters**.

We will **always** provide you with a detailed quote or an estimate of costs at the start of your matter, based on your specific circumstances.

Individual probate matters and the work involved can vary widely, we have therefore provided the information below based on:

- A simple, non-contested, family context;
- Where a valid Will is in place;
- No inheritance tax is payable;
- There are no shares or complex investments involved;
- All assets and domicile are within the United Kingdom;
- There is no related death; and
- There are no impacting conflicts within the family or against the estate;

We anticipate that most of the above matters will take between 10 and 25 hours work at £290 + VAT per hour. Total costs would therefore be estimated between £2,900 and £7,250 + VAT (at 20%) and disbursements (described below).

This work covers key stages of:

- Initial meeting (virtual or in person);
- All correspondence between clients and third parties (such as banks, HMRC and the Probate Registry);
- Fact finding in order to complete the inheritance tax return;
- Drafting the relevant documents, Oath for Executors, Renunciations, IHT returns, etc;
- Obtaining the Grant of Probate;
- Gathering in the estate, paying any debts, fees and related obligations;
- Distributing the estate in accordance with the terms of the Will; and
- Providing full Estate Accounts detailing what has come into and gone out of the estate during the entire process.

Disbursements:

These are costs which are payable to third parties in order to progress your matter.

Usual disbursements which would be payable in addition to our fees would be:

- Probate Registry fee for the Grant of Probate around £280;
- Bankruptcy search fees of £2.00 per beneficiary;
- Possible Land Registry search fee £3.00 - £12.00 per property;
- Possible asset search fees (if required) £390;
- Possible advertising charges for posts in the London Gazette and local newspaper £150.00 - £425 (depending on local charges/circumstances).

Timings:

In the above example, we would usually expect the process (not including any property/land element) to be completed between 2 to 10 months. In the above circumstances, we would usually expect to be in a position to apply for the Grant of Probate within 4-8 weeks and this would then take (dependent on Probate Registry waiting times) around 14-18 weeks for the Probate Registry to process and a further 2 weeks for them to send the Grant to us. Thereafter it would usually take 4-8 weeks for the estate to be gathered in, reconciled and distributed.

Issues that would usually increase costs and timings of matters are:

- The number of beneficiaries involved;
- The number of bank/building society accounts and assets of the deceased;
- The number and type of shareholdings;
- Where the estate is Intestate (there is no valid Will);
- There are any disputes as to the estate, Will or family;
- Property needs to be sold or transferred;
- A variation in distribution is taking place;
- Beneficiaries are difficult to locate, contact or may have died;
- There is more than one property within the estate;
- The deceased benefitted or was involved in a Trust;
- There are unknown assets or liabilities; and
- There are assets or liabilities outside of the UK.

Experience of the teams/individuals at Maslin Solicitors:

We will always be happy to confirm details of the solicitor conducting your matter and their specific experience, at any time. We only retain a solicitor to act in your matter, not legal executives, paralegals or legal secretaries.

Each matter has a named solicitor specifically allocated to it who will undertake the entirety of your matter (save for severe unforeseen circumstances). We do not routinely move your matter between solicitors or teams.

We currently retain solicitors with not less than 8 years post qualification experience with an hourly rate of £290 - £395 plus VAT. We currently do not charge for any non-solicitor hourly charging rates (for paralegal, legal secretary work).

Head of Department is Stephanie Maslin with more than 12 years' worth of experience specifically in private client. Stephanie deals with all areas of private client including, probate/intestacy, Court of Protection, LPAs, Wills, disputes, estate planning, trusts and tax. She has a particular interest in elderly clients, incapacity, family dynamics and in dealing with people with differing health or learning impairments.