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### **Legal Fee Information for Uncontested Probate**

#### **Introduction**

Probate is the court-supervised process of gathering a deceased person's assets, paying debts and taxes and distributing what is left to those who are named as inheritors, in the Will.

Uncontested probate is where there is no dispute over the Will and distribution of assets.

Below we provide you with information on our Legal Fees, disbursements and the length of time it will take to complete your matter.

#### **Legal Fees and Disbursements**

Legal Fees are the amount you will be required to pay for all of the work performed by us in actioning your instructions, from commencement of your case to conclusion. As each probate case is unique our fees are charged by the hour. As an example:

For a simple estate applying for the grant, collecting and distributing the assets, we anticipate this will take between 4 and 5 hours. Total costs estimated at £1,000.00 - £1,250.00 plus VAT (£1,200.00 - £1,500.00 Inc. VAT)

Our fees are based on an hourly rate which is £250.00 plus VAT (£300.00 inc. VAT) The exact cost will depend on the individual circumstances of the matter. For example, if there is one beneficiary and no property, costs will be at the lower end of the range. If there are multiple beneficiaries, a property and multiple bank accounts, costs will be at the higher end.

- We will handle the full process for you.
- We will charge the sum of £35 + VAT (a total of £42.20 Inc. VAT) for electronic money transfers and the sum of £35 + VAT for archive fee when the matter is completed.

## **Disbursements and Other Costs**

Disbursements are costs related to your matter that are payable to third parties. We handle the payment of the disbursements on your behalf, to ensure a smoother process.

You will be provided with a full list of disbursements in our formal quotation. If you need to incur any further disbursements during your case, you will be notified in advance of the reason and the amount.

### **Typical disbursements will include: -**

- Probate application fee (Probate Court Fee: £155 plus 50p for every office copy).
- Swearing of the oath (per executor): £7
- Bankruptcy only Land Charges Department searches: £2.90 + VAT (£3.48 Inc. VAT) for each beneficiary

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

On average, estates that fall within this range are dealt with within 6 – 12 months.

Typically, obtaining the grant of probate takes 6 - 8 weeks.

Collecting assets then follows, which can take between 16 - 32 weeks. Once this has been done, we can distribute the assets, which normally takes 32 - 48 weeks.

### **Stages of the Process**

The precise stages involved in an uncontested probate vary according to the circumstances. We have set out the key stages of a standard transaction: -

- Providing you with a dedicated and experienced probate solicitor to work on your matter.
- Undertaking regulatory checks.
- Identifying the legally appointed executors or administrators and beneficiaries.
- Accurately identifying the type of Probate application you will require.
- Obtaining the relevant documents required to make the application.
- Completing the Probate Application and the relevant HMRC forms.
- Drafting a legal oath for you to swear.
- Making the application to the Probate Court on your behalf.
- Obtaining the Probate and securely send two copies to you.
- Collecting and distributing all assets in the estate.

### **Potential additional costs**

Further potential costs may arise where: -

- 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 £1.50 + VAT (£1.80 inc VAT) (1 per asset usually).
- Dealing with the sale or transfer of any property in the estate is not included.

### **Fixed Fee Services**

We can also provide the following fixed fee services:

- Simple Single Will £200 +VAT (£240 Inc. VAT)
- Couples Will £350 + VAT (£420 Inc. VAT)
- For a standard Power of Attorney £280.00 plus VAT (£336.00 Inc. VAT)
- For a standard Lasting Power of Attorney £800.00 plus VAT (£960.00 Inc. VAT)

### **Questions**

If you have any questions relating to our services and our fees, please contact us on 0121 3270118 or send an email to [solicitors@loyntonlaw.co.uk](mailto:solicitors@loyntonlaw.co.uk).