Whitehead Monckton

Estate Administration

Since 2018 the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) has required regulated law firms to publish information on pricing to help consumers make informed choices.

Our fees

We will offer you a choice of a fixed fee or an estimate where our fees are calculated based on the amount of time we spend carrying out your instructions as per our terms & conditions. For your information, our hourly rates are currently:

Directors & Associate Directors	£410.00	Consultants	£410.00
Senior Associate Solicitors	£395.00	Associate Solicitors	£380.00
Senior Solicitors	£365.00	Solicitors/ Legal Exec	£345.00
Senior Trainee Sols/Legal Exec	£320.00	Trainee Sols/Legal Exec	£300.00
Legal assistants	£245.00		

VAT will be added to these amounts at the prevailing rate (currently 20%).

It is always difficult to provide projections of costs in estate administrations at the outset as each one has its own issues and you are of course free to instruct us to do as much or as little of the work as you wish. However, in our experience, where we are instructed to carry out the whole administration from start to finish, in estates which are worth up to around £750,000 our fees tend to work out between 2.5% to 3.5% of the gross probate value and for estates worth in excess of £750,000 the fees fall between 1.5% and 3%. This is not however the basis of charging.

For example, if the gross probate value of the estate is around £480,000 our fees may fall between £12,000 plus VAT and £16,800 plus VAT. However, we should be able to give you a more accurate estimate when we meet with you and have a better understanding of what work needs to be undertaken.

Other expenses

During the administration, there will be other expenses we shall have to pay called "disbursements". The most common disbursements will be:

1. The probate application fee of £300;
2. Sealed office copies of the Grant of Probate at £16 each;
3. Estate Account Production fee of £60 plus VAT;
4. Property Ladder Group fee of £175 plus VAT to deal with the valuation of the property;
5. Share valuations – variable amount
6. Estatesearch asset search fee of between £25 and £185 plus VAT;
7. Digital asset search fee £35 plus VAT;
8. Creditors' search advertisements or insurance alternative – variable amount;

9. Postage costs when using the Royal Mail Special Delivery service - variable amount;
10. Deceased Bankruptcy search at £6.00
11. Executors' combined ID and insolvency check at £11.00 plus VAT each; and
12. Beneficiaries' combined ID and insolvency check at £11.00 plus VAT each.

There may also be others which we will advise you of if necessary.

Timescales

In most cases we complete the valuation process and are able to apply for the Grant of Probate within 2 to 4 months after having received your complete instructions. This will entirely depend on how quickly the various institutions we have to obtain information from take to answer our correspondence. We then normally expect to obtain the Grant of Probate within the following 16 to 20 weeks depending on whether or not Inheritance Tax is payable. Thereafter, it is extremely difficult to give you an accurate estimate of how long it will take to complete the administration as each case is different. We will however provide you with an updated time estimate once we have the Grant, if appropriate.

Where it looks as though these timescales are not going to be met, we shall do our utmost to give you an update at the appropriate time and explain why.