

AGH Solicitors Fees for Probate Matters in England and Wales

Applying for the Grant

We can help you through this difficult process by obtaining the Grant of Probate on your behalf. Our fixed cost service does not include the collecting and distributing of assets.

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. This estimate is for estates where:

- There is no more than one property
- There are no more than 3 bank or building society accounts
- There are no other intangible assets
- There are no more than 2 executors who are both obtaining the grant
- There are no disputes between beneficiaries on division of assets. If disputes arise this is likely to lead to an increase in costs
- There is no inheritance tax payable and the executors do not need to submit a full account to HMRC
- There are no claims made against the estate

Potential additional costs

- 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 (1 per asset usually).
- Dealing with the sale or transfer of any property in the estate is not included.

How much does this service cost?

TOTAL: fixed fee of £500 (incl. VAT).

This includes: obtaining the grant only and does not include collecting assets and distributing them.

Breakdown of costs:

Legal fees £500

VAT on legal fees £100

Disbursements (£170 in total):

- Probate court fee of £160.
- £9 swearing of the oath (per executor).
- Bankruptcy-only Land Charges Department searches (£2 per beneficiary).

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

As part of our fixed fee we will:

- Provide you with a dedicated and experienced probate solicitor to work on your matter
- Identify the legally appointed executors or administrators
- Accurately identify the type of Probate application you will require
- Obtain the relevant documents required to make the application
- Complete the Probate Application and the relevant HMRC forms
- Draft a legal oath for you to swear
- Make the application to the Probate Court on your behalf
- Obtain the Probate and securely send two copies to you

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

If the estate requires the payment of inheritance tax or requires the completion of a full account (IHT400) the additional fee for completing this would be £400 plus VAT at £80 TOTAL £480.

Additional disbursements that could be expected would be advertisements in the local paper and London Gazette of approximately £100 each inclusive of VAT.

Administration of the Estate.

Should you wish us to administer the estate which would include obtaining the Grant, Preparation of Estate Accounts and distribution of assets we would charge as follows.. In that time we have come to realise that our clients want certainty and transparency when instructing us to act on their behalf. As part of this we operate an 'agreed fee' pricing structure when dealing with the administration of an Estate. This means that following discussing your specific needs with you (at a no obligation and free of charge initial 30 minute consultation), we will then provide you with either an agreed fee, or range of agreed fees and set out exactly what work is included for the respective costs quoted.

In reaching the agreed fee or range of agreed fees the following factors are taken into account when providing a quote:-

1. Whether or not there is a valid Will;
2. Whether or not AGH Solicitors are appointed the Executors of the Estate;
3. The number of Beneficiaries;
4. The number and value of the assets of the deceased;
5. Whether there is a property in the Estate and whether we are to deal with the utility companies as part of the administration;
6. The value and number of properties in the Estate;
7. Whether the Estate is subject to the payment of Inheritance Tax;
8. The number of meetings requested by the client. A minimum of two meetings will usually be required;

The Administration of an Estate through AGH Solicitors may include the following:-

1. Providing you with a dedicated and experienced Wills Tax and Probate Lawyer to work on your matter;
2. An initial meeting to discuss the Estate, provide initial advice and agree the extent of the retainer required;
3. Identify the legally appointed executors (or administrators) and beneficiaries of the Estate and write to each of them;
4. Accurately identify the type of Probate application you will require;
5. Identify the assets of the Deceased as where necessary write to institutions including but not limited to Banks, asset holders, utility providers, pension providers, benefit providers, insurance companies to obtain information relating to the Estate and collect in all assets;
6. Complete the Probate Application papers, relevant HMRC forms and Oath for Executors/Administrators;
7. Settle any Inheritance Tax if due;
8. Prepare the Probate Application papers and the Oath to be sworn;
9. Make the application to the Probate Court on your behalf;
10. Obtain the Grant of Probate or Letters of Administration;
11. Place Statutory Advertisements;
12. Prepare Estate Accounts;
13. Distribute the Estate once the Estate Accounts are approved by the Executors/Administrators (also after conducting bankruptcy searches):

Probate

In addition to fees for the administration of the Estate there will be a separate charge for selling any property(ies) owned by the Deceased.

On average, Estates that are not subject to Inheritance Tax are completed within 6-8 months depending largely on whether there is a property to sell and the whereabouts of the Deceased's assets. Estates which are subject to Inheritance Tax take on average between 12-18 months to complete but this will depend on whether there is property to sell and the whereabouts of the Deceased's assets.

Typically it takes between 2-3 months to obtain the Grant of Probate only.

As our service is tailored to your individual requirements, it is not possible to detail the exact costs due to the variety of factors that are taken into account when calculating our charges. However, to assist please see below some indicative examples for the administration of an uncontested Estate with all assets situated in the UK, no liabilities and no significant delays or unusual complexities:-

1. To administer an Estate in the following circumstances:-

- a) cash assets worth £10,000;
- b) property worth £100,000;
- c) Not subject to Inheritance Tax;

Our Legal Fees are £800 – £1500 (plus VAT at 20%)
(Depending on other factors to be taken into account)

2. To administer an Estate in the following circumstances

- a) Liquid assets worth £500,000;
- b) property worth £500,000;
- c) Subject to Inheritance Tax:

Our Legal Fees are £1200 – £3000 (plus VAT at 20%)
(Depending on other factors to be taken into account)

3. At AGH Solicitors we deal with very few Estates that exceed the £1million value. As we find the requirements of our clients and each Estate vary considerably we always quote on a bespoke and individual basis, taking into account all unique factors. Please contact us so that we can prepare a no obligation agreed fee quote for you.

It should be noted that the above examples are provided for illustrative purposes only. Charges and costs vary considerably between matters. This information is based on an analysis over the past two years and our experience of previous matters dealt with.

- In addition to legal fees, other out of pocket expenses payable to third parties will also be incurred. These may include but are not limited to £160 – £225 for the Probate Court fee, depending on number of sealed copies of Grant of Probate needed;
- £9 Swearing of the Oath fee (per executor);
- £100 to post in The London Gazette – this protects against unexpected claims from unknown creditors;
- £50-150 to post in a Local Newspaper – This also helps to protect against unexpected claims;
- £10 (including VAT at 20%) Office Copy Entries (per property) to check the title of any properties owned by the Estate: