

## **Fixed Fees List (2023)**

### **Private Client Work**

#### **Wills**

##### **Single Wills**

Single Will	£200.00 plus VAT
Single Discretionary Trust Will	£400.00 plus VAT
Advance Directive / Living Will	£200.00 plus VAT

##### **Wills for couples – Prices quoted are for two Wills**

Mirror Wills (Family or Structured)	£400.00 plus VAT
Discretionary Trust Wills	£700.00 plus VAT

**Advance Directive / Living Wills** £400.00 plus VAT

#### **Lasting Powers of Attorney**

1 x Lasting Power of Attorney	£400.00 plus VAT
2 x Lasting Power of Attorney	£500.00 plus VAT
4 x Lasting Power of Attorney	£800.00 plus VAT

#### **NOTE ON DISBURSEMENTS**

Each Lasting Power of Attorney is required to be registered with the Office of Public Guardian. There is a fee of £82.00 to register each form and the process takes about 3 months. In some cases where a person is on low income or welfare benefits then the fee may be reduced or waived. A form LPA120 will be required with supporting evidence.

#### **Enduring Powers of Attorney**

Registration of an Enduring Power of Attorney £300.00 plus VAT plus disbursement (£82.00)

## **Probate and Estate Administration**

To assist in calculating the possible fees we need to distinguish between some basic information. Each probate case is different and here are how we differentiate them:-

### **1 Excepted Estates / Probate Application Only (Will and non will cases)**

The conditions for these estates are that;

- the deceased died on or after 6 April 2004, domiciled in the United Kingdom,
- the gross value of the estate, including the deceased's share of any jointly owned assets, any specified transfers and any specified exempt transfers does not exceed £3,000,000 for deaths on or after 1 January 2022 (£1,000,000 for deaths before this date), and the net chargeable value of the estate after deduction of allowable liabilities and spouse or civil partner exemption and/or charity exemption only does not exceed the Inheritance Tax nil rate band, and for deaths on or after 1 January 2022.

In cases such as these we make a fixed fee charge of £650.00 + VAT. The probate fee is £273.00 and there is a charge of £1.50 for each certified copy of the probate required.

Our fee is based upon taking instructions, completing the form IHT205 (if this is necessary) and the online application, submitting the application to the Probate Registry and reporting back to the client upon completion of the application with the original copies of the grant. It does not include any work relating to estate administration (see below) nor advice on disputed matters.

It typically takes around 4 weeks to process a probate application.

### **2 None Excepted Estates / Probate Application Only**

In most other Probate Applications other than 1 above, the HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) form IHT400 is required for UK estates.

The procedure differs in that the IHT400 is a long and detailed return requiring a lot of additional information. Also the form is sent directly to HMRC with any tax which might be payable. This needs to be done before the probate application can be made.

In cases such as these we record the amount of time spent in the process of taking instructions, collating information, preparing the forms and submitting the application.

Typically our fees would be in the range of £1,500.00 - £2,500.00 + VAT. The probate fee is £273.00 and there is a charge of £1.50 for each certified copy of the probate required.

The process can typically take 2-4 months.

### **3 Estate Administration (Non contested cases)**

Once the probate application has been made then the duty of the personal representative is to collect the assets, settle any debts and distribute the estate in accordance with the will or intestacy rules. We call this estate administration.

We typically aim to ensure that matters are concluded if possible within the executors year (12 months from date of death) and sooner if possible.

Estate administration can include (amongst other matters)

- Selling property,
- Property clearing,
- Transferring or selling investments,
- Encashing bank accounts,
- Placing s27 Notices,
- Dealing with income tax,
- Dealing with the DWP,
- Dealing with insurances,
- Dealing with domestic accounts.
- Drawing up and approval of financial statements.

It is not possible to give a detailed cost because each case is different. We typically record the amount of time spent on each case. We would suggest an estimate of £2,500.00 - £6,000.00 plus VAT be applied, unless the matter is unduly complex. Each case is determined upon its own specific facts.

We always recommend placing notices under S27 of the Trustee Act 1925 to protect personal representatives against claims made after the estate has been distributed. The typical cost of these notices is £290.00.

Other disbursements might include undertaking money transfers for which we charge £35.00 plus VAT per transaction. We will also undertake credit checks, and typically these are under £5.00 per name.

Our fees do not include:

- Any disputes or claims against the estate or regarding the validity of the Will
- The preparation of a Deed of Variation
- Dealing with the tax affairs (other than those for the tax year to the date of death) including any HM Revenue investigation
- Any investigation by the Department for Work and Pensions
- Any conveyancing fees incurred in dealing with the sale of estate property
- Dealing with the deceased's insolvency
- The need for the executors to commence litigation proceedings against a third party
- Monies transferred telegraphically to bank accounts

#### **4 Contested Probate**

We do not undertake contentious probate matters but would refer such cases to a suitably qualified solicitor.

## **Trusts/Settlements**

We offer advice and assistance relating to the setting up of Trusts and Settlement Deeds. Our fees will depend on the amount of time spent advising and assisting, but generally speaking our fees range from £750.00-£1,500 plus VAT and disbursements. This is a bespoke service, tailored to the individual client and their requirements.

## **Property Matters**

Severance of Joint Tenancy £100.00 plus VAT

Registration of form DJP where a joint owner has passed away £100.00 plus VAT

First registration of title at Land Registry £500.00 plus VAT plus disbursements\*

Transfer/Assent of registered title £300.00 plus VAT plus disbursements\*

\*The disbursements include Land Registration Fees which are based upon the property value.

## **Certified copies of documents**

We can provide certified copies of documents, for example Lasting or Enduring Powers of Attorney. Our current fee for this service is £50.00 plus VAT for three copies.

## **Consultations**

If you would like a meeting with a solicitor to discuss your affairs then we reserve the right to charge a fixed fee of £200.00 plus VAT should you decide you do not wish to engage the services of the firm.

The firm offers a wide range of services and if you would like an estimate of charges for any matter which is not included above then please feel free to ask.

Our Terms and Conditions of Engagement do change from time to time and please ask for our current Terms if you would like to see a copy of these.

The current hourly rates applied by fee earners are:

- Partners – £220.00 (plus 20% VAT)
- Associate Solicitors – £200.00 (plus 20% VAT)
- Legal Executives – £200.00 (plus 20% VAT)
- Wills and Probate Paralegal – £175.00 (plus 20% VAT)