

Our charges in respect of Probate services are usually in accordance with the Law Society's guidelines for work of this type, and we take the following elements into account:

1. The time we spend on the matter
2. The value of the various assets comprised in the Estate. .

#### Time spent on the matter

Our charging rates range from £250.00 per hour to £350.00 per hour plus VAT. We will advise you if we propose to charge purely on the basis of the time we spend on your matter.

#### Value element

In addition to charging for the time we work on the matter, we can charge a value element if the circumstances justify it.

Wherever possible we agree a fixed fee, based on the value element, at the outset of an Administration as our clients tend to prefer the certainty this offers.

Where a solicitor is the sole executor, or is appointed jointly with another person or persons, the Law Society guidelines mention the following percentages:

Value of gross estate less residence            1.5%

Value of residence                                    0.75%

Where a solicitor is not acting as an executor, the Law Society guidelines suggest the following percentages:

Value of gross estate less residence            1%

Value of residence                                    0.5%

When you have been able to provide us with details of the assets in the estate, and given us an indication of the complexity of the Deceased's affairs, we can provide you with details of our suggested fees based on the value elements.

Our usual minimum fee would be £3,000.00 + VAT and disbursements. However, this is subject to variations where the matter is more straightforward, or conversely more complicated and we reserve the right to review this figure to arrive at a figure which we hope would be fair for us and for you.

Probate involves putting all the Deceased's affairs in order and it is only when this has been done that the Estate can be distributed to the beneficiaries. As part of the process, the executors must ensure that all the Deceased's tax affairs are in order, that all their debts have been paid and that there are unlikely to be any claims against the Estate.

In addition to our fees, you would also have to pay the disbursements, which are sums we pay out on your behalf whilst dealing with the matter. The principal ones are the following:

- Probate fees of £155.00
- Office copy Grants of Probate at £1.50 per copy
- The cost of statutory advertisements (usually £300 -£500 but again it will depend on circumstances)
- The cost of bankruptcy checks against beneficiaries' names: £2.00 per name)
- The fees of other professional advisers with whom we may have to work, such as valuers, accountants, stockbrokers.
- The cost of specialist advice from a barrister, if required.
- The expenses involved in the sale of any possessions such as house contents, jewellery, works of art or a car.
- The costs of any property sale or transfer. As mentioned, there is a separate charge for this.

This is intended to be general guidance only. Each estate is different, and this can result in fees that are higher or lower than the average, depending on circumstances so we recommend that you call us for a general discussion to see if we are able to offer the type of assistance you require.