



## HEPPENSTALLS SOLICITORS

### **Probate: Fixed Fee - Grant only – Small Estates under £325,000 with no Inheritance Tax payable**

**Our instructions:** Applying for the Grant of Probate and delivering copies to one of the executors to enable the executors to collect and distribute the assets. Our fixed fee is £1,500 plus Value Added Tax (VAT) of £300.

**What we do:** We will handle the probate application process for the executors only in relation to an uncontested estate where all the assets are in the UK. As part of our fixed fee we will provide you with a dedicated and experienced person to work on the Estate, obtain identification of the legally appointed executors, prepare the probate application and the Inheritance Tax form, make the application to the Probate Court on your behalf, obtain the Probate and send sealed copies to an executor.

**How long will this take?** On average, estates that fall within this range will receive probate within 1-2 months. Typically, obtaining the grant of probate takes 4-6 weeks from receipt of our signed retainer and receipt of the necessary checks and information. Delays incurred by HM Courts Service are beyond our control.

**Disbursements\*** not included in this fee:

- Probate Registry application fee of £155
- Additional copies of the grant of representation will cost £1.50 (one per asset usually) if purchased when applying for the grant, payable to the Probate Registry
- £7 approximately (plus VAT) for Royal Mail Guaranteed Delivery postage per letter, where required for safety of documents, typically one per executor plus one for the Probate Registry
- HM Land Registry copy entries for registered properties - £3 per document (plus VAT)
- Guaranteed delivery and bankruptcy searches for overseas executors – priced individually (plus VAT)
- Swearing or affirming the oath £5, plus £2 per document (will/codicil) marked where applicable, per executor, payable to the solicitor/commissioner taking the oath (not Heppenstalls)

\* 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 and then add these to your bill. Figures provided for disbursements and the rate of VAT are not within our control and may vary.

**Limitations:** This fixed fee is for estates where:

- The death is registered and the funeral arranged by the family
- There is a valid professionally prepared will, properly attested, with all appointed executors acting for the whole estate
- There are no trusts or pension funds connected with the deceased and no significant lifetime gifts by the deceased
- The executors provide a valuation of each asset in the estate or passing by survivorship
- No Inheritance Tax is payable and no tax advice is provided
- No executor appears on an insolvency register
- Dealing with the sale, collection or transfer of any asset in the estate is not included
- There are no claims made against the estate

If instructions are withdrawn, the work undertaken will be charged on a time costed basis at the hourly rate (plus VAT) of the person handling the work. Clients who do not follow our advice may incur extra costs and charges.

### **Probate: No Fixed Fee**

We cannot provide examples or timescales for each and every scenario or pre-empt unusual circumstances.

If there is no will or the estate includes any shareholdings (or stocks and bonds) or there are other complexities, Inheritance Tax reliefs or allowances, the costs will be calculated at the hourly rate of the person handling the matter. The rate range between £220 and £270 per hour plus VAT, depending upon complexity and experience required.

In all cases we can give you a more accurate quote for charges, disbursements and timescale once we have more information. Please contact us to discuss, without obligation at New Milton **01425 610078** or Lymington **01590 689500**