

## **Uncontested Probate Information and Fees**

### **Our charges:**

Our overall fees vary depending upon how complex your case is and what you would like us to do. For a free quote specifically tailored to your circumstances please email [info@southgateandco.co.uk](mailto:info@southgateandco.co.uk). We would be more than happy to discuss your case.

To give you an idea of how we charge however, we have set out below details of our fees.

Our charges are made up of:

- a) our fees for the legal work;
- b) 'disbursements' - disbursements are costs related to your matter that are payable to other people, such as probate application fees. We handle the payment of the disbursements on your behalf to ensure a smoother process.

Where VAT is referred to below please note that this will be charged at the applicable rate, which is currently 20%.

### **How much do we charge?**

#### **Our fees**

*Standard probate work: applying for a 'Grant of Probate' and Collecting and Distributing Assets in a 'simple' matter*

This is the most common type of probate work which we deal with, namely where someone has passed away leaving a will which is not disputed (see below for more details on what we mean by a 'simple' matter). Our fees for this work will either be agreed with you as a fixed sum at the start of our work together or based on how much time it takes to deal with your case. Our standard hourly rates are £350.00 plus VAT.

Normally this work takes between 20 and 25 hours work at £350 per hour (plus VAT at 20%). Total costs therefore tend to be in the region of £7000 - £8,750 (plus VAT at 20%).

We may also charge an additional fee to reflect the complexity and value of the matter. This is usually 0.75% of the value of property held by the estate and 0.75% of the value of other assets in accordance with Law Society guidelines.

The total costs will depend upon how straight forward or complicated the case is. For example, if someone has died leaving only one beneficiary in an undisputed will and no property, then costs would be at the lower end of the range because it will be simple to administer. If there are multiple beneficiaries, a property and multiple bank accounts however, costs will be at the higher end even if the will is not disputed.

As detailed above, please remember that VAT of 20% is charged on all of our fees or legal work.

All of the costs detailed above are for simple estates where:

- There is a valid will
- The will and probate are not disputed / contested
- There is no more than one property to be transferred to a beneficiary
- There are no more than two bank or building society accounts
- There are no other intangible assets
- There are 1 to 2 beneficiaries
- 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
- The Estate does not exceed £500,000.
- There are no claims made against the estate
- All assets are in the United Kingdom

We would still be delighted to work with you in more complicated matters but would need to give you a quotation for the work tailored to your individual circumstances. Please contact us to learn more.

## **Disbursements**

Disbursements are payments that we make to third parties on your behalf. These are separate payments for which the estate is liable in addition to our costs as described above.

Typical disbursements in Probate matters are:

- Probate application fee: £65.00;
- Swearing of the oath fee: £5.00 per executor;
- Bankruptcy-only Land Charges Department searches: £2.00 per beneficiary;
- Post in The London Gazette (this can help protect against unexpected claims from unknown creditors): estimate £50;
- Post in a Local Newspaper (this can also help to protect against unexpected claims): estimate £150.00
- Other third parties/professionals to advise on value of assets or disposal of assets

## **Other costs to consider**

If you would like to receive additional copies of the grant of probate, we are happy to arrange this at a cost of £1.50 each if requested when applying for the grant (we normally requested an additional 5 when applying for the grant) otherwise they will be charged at £35 each.

Dealing with the sale or transfer of any property in the estate is not included.

Remember also that if this is not a 'simple' matter (see the factors listed above) then costs would vary so do get in touch for a more accurate quote.

## **How long will this take?**

Generally speaking, 'simple' estate matters such as these can normally be dealt with within three - nine months. This is broken down into the following stages, with rough time estimates for each stage as follows:

- obtaining the grant of probate: 10-25 weeks;
- collecting assets: 8-12 weeks;
- distributing the assets: 3-4 weeks.

## **Key stages of your case**

The precise stages involved vary according to the circumstances.

The guidance on our fees above covers all of the work in relation to the following key stages a 'simple' probate process:

- Identify the executors and beneficiaries
- Check 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 swearing
- Make the application for probate
- Obtain the Probate and distribute copies as necessary
- Collect and distribute all assets in the estate

It would not normally be necessary to undertake other work or incur costs other than those described above. However, we would be very happy to provide you with a more tailored quote for all stages of your particular case once we know about your specific circumstances.

## **Who will be dealing with my matter?**

Your case will be handled by a solicitor with over 8 years appropriate experience and qualifications. Full details of which, including details of their supervisor, if appropriate, will be given before any action is taken.