

PROBATE FEES

Layzells Solicitors has a highly experienced private client department.

The estates the department assists with vary from complex estates involving high value or unique assets in multiple jurisdictions, to simple UK estates with no inheritance tax payable.

Through years of experience, our lawyers are aware that all probate matters are different. In every case our probate practitioners ensure they work closely with the family and personal representatives to provide clear advice and guidance on what needs to be done, how long this will take and how much it will cost.

Applying for the grant, collecting, and distributing the assets.

Obtaining a grant of representation and dealing with the administration of an estate can be complicated; it can take several months to make sure everything is done properly. At Layzells we offer a complete estate administration service to deal with everything for you.

Every estate is different which is why we encourage you to contact us so we can provide you with an estimate outlining a range of potential fees to make sure you get the right amount of support to meet your individual circumstances. We will update you regularly on your costs throughout the matter so you can stay in control throughout.

We will do the following:

- Advise you in connection with obtaining the appropriate grant of representation to the estate;
- Advise you in connection with the administration of the estate, including the legal, taxation and administrative matters.

We will not do the following:

- Provide any advice in relation to foreign assets, however, we can co-ordinate advice with professional advisers in other jurisdictions in relation to assets held abroad but only to the extent specifically agreed in writing between us (which may incur an additional cost).

- Provide advice in relation to dealing with actual claims made against the estate, or contentious matters in dealing with the administration of the estate – these would be a separate matter; however, we are able to co-ordinate with other professional advisers on how this impacts the administration of the estate but only to the extent specifically agreed in writing between us (which may incur an additional cost).

Key stages in the probate process

The stages will vary depending on the circumstances although most cases will generally involve:

1. Meeting with the executors or the family to take instructions and discuss the process;
2. Obtaining details of assets and liabilities of the estate;
3. Preparing an inheritance tax return and probate application;
4. Collecting in the deceased's assets and settling any liabilities; and
5. Distributing the estate and finalising the tax position.

Our Charges

The services we offer are bespoke and therefore the following charges are intended to be an outline guide only. The exact figure will always depend on the individual facts and circumstances of the matter.

We will give you an initial estimate which is tailored to these specific facts and circumstances once information about the estate's assets, its beneficiaries and relevant documents have been considered.

We do not offer fixed fees for our work on an estate administration, and we do not charge our fees on a percentage of the value of the estate.

We charge on a time-spent basis – calculated by reference to the following hourly rates.

Michael Ross £295 plus VAT

William Chalk £275 plus VAT

William ward £350 plus VAT

In addition to the legal fees, disbursements* will also be payable and will include the following:

Item	Amount	VAT
• Probate Application Fee	£273	none
• Bankruptcy Search Fee** (per beneficiary)	£2.75	£0.55
• AML Search Fee (per beneficiary)	£6.00	£1.20
• International AML Search Fee (per beneficiary)	£13.00	£2.60
• Office copies for the grant of probate (per copy)	£1.50	none
• Post in the local newspaper (protects against unexpected claims)	£215	£43
• Post in the London Gazette (Protects against unexpected claims from unknown creditors)	£85	£17

*Disbursements are costs related to your matter that are payable to third parties.

**These fees apply for searches against UK citizens. For non-UK citizens, a bespoke bankruptcy search fee will be provided once we have the relevant details.

Factors that are likely to increase the cost of your matter:

- Not having all of the paperwork available or having incorrect information that needs investigation and correction.
- Third parties not responding to our communications promptly.

- Dealing with unusual or complex assets or items (for example: fine art; timeshares; shares in private companies etc).
- HMRC compliance investigations.
- Arranging and supervising house clearances.

As soon as any complications arise, we will discuss these with you and agree the fee for the additional work being carried out in advance of any additional work being undertaken.

Please contact us so that we can provide you with an individual quote based on your specific circumstances.