

## PROBATE PRICING

We deliver probate services across our offices in Newcastle under Lyme, Birmingham and Hinckley.

We are proud to hold Lexcel accreditation issued by the Law Society. This involves the firm undergoing a rigorous audit process which ensures we maintain a high level of client care.

We appreciate losing a loved one is very hard, and we can help you through at least part of this difficult process by obtaining the Grant of Probate on your behalf.

Also, we will undertake the collecting and distributing of assets within the estate either in accordance with the terms of the will of the deceased or if the deceased did not leave a will in accordance with the rules of intestacy.

Our team of solicitors has over 110 years of collective service experience in delivering high-quality work in all matters relating to wills and estate administration.

Our team at our Newcastle Under Lyme office has experience in high value estate and inheritance tax matters.

We have two experienced solicitors, Kevin Carroll and Susan Carroll at the Newcastle under Lyme office with more than 72 years of collective experience.

Across the company we have 3 members in the team who work in this field and all work under the supervision of Kevin Carroll, who is Head of the Probate and Estate Administration team.

We have a proven track record in achieving successful outcomes for our clients.

### **Kevin Carroll - Solicitor**

Kevin is the head of our team and has over 35 years' experience in private client work, specialising in conveyancing and wills and probate. Kevin has been working in this area since he qualified in 1984 and has helped many families and individuals in that time.

Kevin was a partner in the firm Brown and Corbishley for many years before Brown and Corbishley was incorporated into this firm in October 2018.

Kevin appreciates contacting a solicitor can sometimes be daunting but endeavours to put clients at ease by his plain talking and sympathetic manner.

### **Susan Carroll - Solicitor**

Susan is an experienced solicitor who qualified in 1983. Susan has a law degree from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and worked for many years as a dedicated family law solicitor during which time she was an accredited member of Resolution: First for Family Law.

Since 2016 Susan has worked exclusively as a wills and probate solicitor and is very able to deal with sensitive issues where clients or family members are ill, incapacitated or have lost a loved one.

Susan can advise on simple or complex wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney, applications to the Court of Protection and Grants of Probate and Letters of Administration.

Susan is friendly, approachable and sympathetic as well as being dedicated to achieving the optimum result for her clients.

### **David Bendell - Solicitor**

David has been a solicitor for over 40 years and throughout that time has dealt with Wills and Probate matters, as well as other areas of law. He deals with all legal aspects of Wills and Probate including estate administration and also offers advice on related matters such as Powers of Attorney.

### **How much does this service cost?**

We work hard to give our clients the best information possible relating to the cost of work we are doing for them both at the start of a matter and, when necessary, on an ongoing basis as the work progresses.

### **Applying for the Grant, collecting and distributing the assets: -**

We anticipate the average work necessary to do this for you will take between 5.5 hours to 10 hours depending upon the complexity of the case. Our charging rate is £180 per hour. Total costs are estimated at between £990 plus VAT- £1800 plus VAT.

The exact cost will depend on the individual circumstances of the matter. For example, if there is one beneficiary and no property, costs will be at the lower end of the range. If there are multiple beneficiaries, a property and multiple bank accounts costs will be at the higher end of the range.

We will, at the outset, provide you with an estimate as to the cost based on your specific instructions.

We will handle the full process for you or can act to obtain the Grant only.

The quote above is for estates where there:

- is a valid will
- no more than two properties
- no more than six bank accounts or building society accounts
- no intangible assets
- no more than five beneficiaries
- not a situation where one or more of the executors have died or have refused to act
- no disputes between beneficiaries on the division of assets
- no adult beneficiary lacking capacity
- no missing beneficiaries
- no inheritance tax to pay and consequently no need to submit a full account to HMRC.

We can handle an application for the grant only when our average costs are £500 plus vat.

## VAT

VAT is payable at the rate of 20% and is added to our profit costs. Total average costs, therefore, are estimated at £990 plus VAT of £198 making a total of £1188 - £1800 plus VAT of £360 making a total of £2160.

## Disbursements

Disbursements are costs/fees related to your matter that are payable to 3rd parties such as court fees. We handle the payment of disbursements on your behalf and this ensures a smoother process for you.

1. probate grant fee of £155

It should be noted that the probate fee is scheduled to increase, and the new rate of fees will be based on the value of the estate. No date has yet been set for the implementation of the fee increase.

2. Trustee Act section 27 notices c£100 for a notice in the London Gazette and c£220 for a notice in a local newspaper

Section 27 notices help protect against unexpected claims.

3. Probate valuation fee c£150.00 plus vat

It is advisable to obtain a probate valuation for an estate property

## Potential Additional Costs

1. If assets in an estate include shareholdings and bonds there are likely to be additional costs which can range significantly. In such circumstances we can provide you with a more accurate quote once we have specific details.
2. Dealing with the sale or transfer of any property within an estate is not included in the above-mentioned figures.
3. If any additional copies of the grant are required, they will cost £1.00 per copy

## How long will the process take?

On average estates which fall within this range are dealt with within 3 to 9 months. Typically, obtaining the grant takes 3 months. Collecting assets then follows and takes on average 3 to 6 weeks. Once this has been done, we can finalise the estate and distribute the assets.

The Probate Registry switched to a new computerised system in April 2019 and since its introduction there have been delays in the Registry issuing the grant. It is hoped these difficulties will be rectified by the Probate Registry in early course.

## **Some examples of our cases and charges**

### **Simple case**

When X died, we were instructed by his widow to act in the administration of his estate. The case was straight forward and dealt with by an experienced solicitor. Our costs were £601.00 plus vat and the matter was dealt with within 3 months. The reasons for this included the home was owned as joint tenants, there was only 1 beneficiary and 3 accounts.

### **Typical case**

When X died, we were instructed by her husband and 2 children to administer her estate. The case was handled by an experienced solicitor and our costs were £1556.00 plus vat. The matter was dealt with within 6 months. The reasons for this included dealing with a property held as tenants in common, 5 bank accounts, a stocks and shares ISA and bonds.

### **Case involving full inheritance tax account (IHT 400)**

When X died, we were instructed by his widow and 2 children to obtain grant of probate and dismantle a discretionary will trust. The assets were extensive and required a full account be made to HMRC regarding inheritance tax which was paid but then reclaimable in accordance with the procedure. Our costs were £1410 plus vat.

### **Complex case**

When X died, we were instructed by her executors and the case was handled by an experienced probate solicitor. The estate consisted of a property, savings accounts, shares and bonds. There were 11 pecuniary legatees and 7 residuary charitable beneficiaries. We dealt with inheritance tax issues and tracking down beneficiaries and processing matters further where beneficiaries had predeceased. Our costs were £4875 plus vat.

### **Application for Grant only**

When X died, we were instructed by the executor to apply for the grant only. The assets were straightforward, and our costs were £507.00 plus vat. The matter was dealt with by an experienced solicitor and within 3 months.