

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 75 years of collective experience.

Also, at the Newcastle office are our legal trainees, Izzy Davenport and Natasha Yelland.

Across the company we have 5 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 37 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.

Izzy Davenport – Trainee Legal Executive

Izzy joined two years ago and works in the Wills and Probate department and the Conveyancing department. She has a law degree and has recently completed her academic training to qualify as a Legal Executive gaining a Distinction in both her Wills and Probate and Conveyancing exams. Izzy is currently part way through her work-related training to qualify as a Legal Executive which will conclude next year

Natasha Yelland – Trainee

Natasha has a degree in law from the University of Derby and has completed the Legal Practice course also at the University of Derby achieving a Distinction. Currently, Natasha is studying for her Master's degree in Law which course she will complete in 2022. Natasha has been with us for 12 months and will begin her Training Contract with us on 1st October 2021 and will work in our Wills and Probate department

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 and collecting and distributing the assets: -

1. Applying for the Grant

We anticipate the average work necessary to do this for you will take between 3 hours to 5 hours depending upon the complexity of the case. Our charging rate is £180 per hour. Total costs are estimated at between £540.00 plus VAT- £900 plus VAT.

2. Collecting & Distributing assets

We anticipate the average work necessary to do this for you will take between 3 hours to 5 hours depending upon the complexity of the case. Our charging rate is £180 per hour. Total costs are estimated at between £540.00 plus VAT- £900 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.

The services included in our fees and key stages involved

- Provide you with a dedicated and experienced Probate solicitor to work on your matter
- Taking full instructions and obtaining full particulars of all assets belonging to the deceased and all debts and liabilities comprised in the estate.
- Perusing all correspondence and documents which relate or could relate to assets and liabilities comprised in the estate.
- Corresponding with all asset holders and creditors to obtain valuation of the assets and liabilities in the estate to arrive at a net value of the estate for probate purposes.
- Where a valid will is produced corresponding with executors and beneficiaries.
- Collating all information received, settling the application form and preparation of other forms necessary to lead to a Grant of Probate.
- Preparation of forms, where necessary, to produce to HMRC for estates which have a value over the limit requiring disclosure and an Inland Revenue account is required.
- Attending you for the purpose of going through the application documents and confirming that the information is correct.
- Compiling all information and applying to the District Probate Registry on-line for the Grant.
- On receipt of the Grant registering the same with all authorities, obtaining funds from the various asset holders, settling debts existing at the date of death and settling the funeral account as and when in funds.
- Obtaining executor(s) signature(s) to all forms required by the asset holders.
- Preparation of final estate accounts recording receipt of all funds received from asset holders and detailing all moneys paid out in settling the debts due from the estate.
- Obtaining approval to the final accounts and effecting distribution in accordance therewith.

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 £540 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 which fee does not attract VAT
2. Trustee Act section 27 notices placed in the London Gazette and a local newspaper currently £349.84 inclusive of VAT

Section 27 notices help protect against unexpected claims.

3. Probate valuation fee – routine valuations where Inheritance Tax is not a consideration - £90 = VAT
moderate value valuations where Inheritance Tax may become a consideration - £125 + VAT
RICS valuations - c£1,250 + VAT

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

Our fees do not include

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 £1.50 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 implemented 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. Typically the Probate Registry are taking approximately 6 – 8 weeks to issue the Grant once the application has been submitted to it provided there are no complications when the issue of the Grant will take longer.

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.