



THE INTERNATIONAL FAMILY OFFICE

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PROBATE PRICING INFORMATION

2020

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PROBATE PRICING INFORMATION

Stonehage Fleming Law Limited is required by the Solicitors Regulation Authority to provide certain information about the probate services it provides for non-contentious estates based wholly in the United Kingdom.

SERVICE INFORMATION

Probate work may be handled by any team member of Stonehage Fleming Law Limited. Our team comprises directors, solicitors and a paralegal. Every matter is worked on under the guidance of a director. You will be advised who will be working on your matter upon our engagement with you.

[Click here to view our team](#)

OUR FEES

Our fees for acting on probate and estate administration matters will vary depending on the complexity and value of the estate. The below fee estimates are a general range of the costs for most probate matters which involve non-contentious, domestic estates. We can provide you with a more accurate fee estimate when we have further information pertaining to your particular matter. Where unforeseen complexity arises or you ask us to proceed with additional work than the scope of the original estimate, we will inform you of this and provide you with a revised cost estimate at the earliest possible opportunity.

BASIS OF OUR CHARGES

Our normal approach is to charge according to the time we spend on the matter, and we will give you a guidance as to the likely band of costs we think will be incurred.

Our current hourly rates are as follows:

- **Directors** £480 - £600
- **Other Solicitors** £250 - £600
- **Paralegal** £100

FEE ESTIMATES FOR PROBATE MATTERS

- Application for the grant of representation: £5,000 - £50,000
- Administration of the estate: £5,000 – £70,000

All fee estimates are exclusive of VAT and disbursements.

DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements are costs which are payable to a third party and arise during the course of the matter such as probate application fees, costs of advertising for creditors and valuation fees. We will pay disbursements on your behalf and they will appear in our invoice to you.

Typically, these will include the following:

- Probate application fee of £155 (plus £1.50 each for official copies of the Grant) (no VAT)
- Bankruptcy searches - £2 per beneficiary (no VAT)
- Section 27 of Trustee Act 1925 Notices fees (to protect against unexpected claims from unknown creditors) – around £250 plus VAT

We will inform you of the actual disbursements for your matter when they are known to us as the cost of disbursements varies dramatically depending on the estate that is being administered.

VAT

VAT at 20% is charged on our fees and on all third party fees (except Probate application fees and Land Registry fees)

SCOPE OF WORK GENERALLY INCLUDED IN OUR FEE ESTIMATES

Generally, the process of applying for a grant of representation and administration of the estate once representation has been granted involves the following tasks:

- advising on the Will and any codicils, their legal and tax implications and the role of the executors. Alternatively, if there is no Will, we will advise on the intestacy rules and their application;
- giving advice on the identification and valuation of the assets and liabilities of the estate;
- issuing notices for creditors who may have claims against the estate;
- advising on Inheritance Tax ('IHT') matters and drafting the necessary documentation to complete the IHT return for the estate or instructing an accountant to complete the IHT return;
- lodging the IHT return with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs;
- arranging payment of any IHT which is due on the application for the Grant of Administration;
- drafting the probate documentation;
- lodging the application for the grant of representation with the Probate Registry and liaising with the Probate Registry as regards to extra information it may require;
- Once the grant of representation has been issued, registering the grant;
- collecting in the assets and paying the debts of the estate;
- arranging payment of any cash legacies and specific gifts to the beneficiaries;
- assisting with any negotiations with HMRC in respect of IHT as regards the value of any assets and reliefs and exemptions against IHT which are applicable to the estate;
- preparing accounts for the estate or instructing an accountant to prepare the accounts;
- advising the personal representatives on their responsibilities regarding income and capital gains tax while they are administering the estate;
- making distributions to the beneficiaries;
- advising the personal representatives on any trust which is set up under the terms of the will;
- liaising with and reporting to the personal representatives and the beneficiaries of the estate as appropriate;
- We note that the steps as above may vary from matter to matter, and that not all of the above actions will be necessary in every estate matter.

The fee estimates given above do not include the following:

- Assisting with parts of the estate which fall outside of England and Wales;
- Administering ongoing trusts which are created by the Will of the deceased; or
- Advising on claims or potential claims against the estate.
- Valuations for property, savings investments or other assets
- Additional work required due to either a technical or other impediment to the Grant being issued by the Probate Registry
- Anything other than that listed above under "Scope of Work generally included in our fee estimate"

If any of the above issues arise on an estate matter or any other issue not listed above as being included in a fee estimate, a separate fee estimate for that work will be provided to the personal representatives.

TIMESCALES

- Preparation of application for a grant of probate: 4 - 12 months
- HMRC issuance of form IHT421 (confirming receipt of the IHT account and any IHT due): 4 - 8 weeks
- Probate registry to issue the grant of representation: 4 - 8 weeks
- Timeline for administering estate: 3 - 18 months

We note that the more complex the estate, the longer the administration will take.