



Example of Administration of Estate Fees

For the purposes of this guide any reference to VAT is calculated at the standard rate for goods and services, currently 20%.

It is important to note that no estate is the same and therefore the costs will depend on the individual circumstances relating to each estate. Estate costs can range from £800 plus VAT (£160.00) to potentially £10,000.00 plus VAT (£2000.00) depending on the nature of the particular case. The following is an example of a typical estate: -

The estate consists of the following: -

- There is a valid will made by the deceased;
- There is no more than one property;
- There are no more than four bank or building society accounts;
- There are no other intangible assets;
- There are one to four 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;
- There are no claims made against the estate;
- The deceased did not submit self-assessment income tax returns.

In order to deal with the entire matter, we anticipate this will take between 5 and 20 hours work at £275 per hour plus VAT (£55.00). Total costs estimated at £1,500.00 plus VAT (£300.00) to £5,500.00 plus VAT (£1,100.00). In addition to our time spent element of charges we would agree a value element calculated by reference to the value of the estate.

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.

In addition to our costs there are disbursements which are costs related to your matter that are payable to third parties, such as court fees. We handle the payment of the disbursements on your behalf to ensure a smoother process.

Typical disbursements which will be payable in addition to our costs:

- Probate application fee of £300.00 plus £1.50 per copy Grant of Probate;
- Identification Check Fee £10.00 plus VAT (£2.00);
- Bankruptcy-only Land Charges Department searches (£2.00 plus VAT (£0.20) per beneficiary);
- The cost of a Post in The London Gazette – Protects against unexpected claims from unknown creditors. This will cost between £80.00 plus VAT (£16.00) to £250.00 plus VAT (£50.00) depending on the advert.
- The cost of a Post in a Local Newspaper would be confirmed – This also helps



to protect against unexpected claims and will cost in the region of £100.00 plus VAT (£20.00);

- Accountancy costs – this will depend on the complexity of the estate and would include the costs of completing trust and estate tax returns together with the completion of the Executors Accounts. We can obtain an accurate quote once we have more information from you;
- Insurance costs – to insure assets such as a residential property. An accurate quotation would be obtained once we have the property details.

Potential additional costs

If there is no will or the estate consists of any share holdings (stocks and bonds) there is likely to be additional costs that could range significantly depending on the estate and how it is to be dealt with. We can give you a more accurate quote once we have more information.

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

How long will this take?

On average, estates that fall within this range are dealt with within six to twelve months. Estates can however take up to eighteen months. Typically, obtaining the grant of probate takes between three and six months. Collecting assets then follows, which can take between two to six weeks. Once this has been done, we can distribute the assets once any taxation matters have been dealt with, which normally takes four to six weeks. The time taken will again fluctuate between different estates depending on the individual circumstances.

This illustration is to provide you with an outline of the likely costs of a case. Whilst we aim to be as accurate as possible, we strongly suggest you contact us directly to obtain a bespoke solution. For Estate Administration matters please email jmp@djm.law.co.uk or telephone (01792) 656525.