



**FAIRMON**   
**LAW** SOLICITORS  
Trusted Advisors | Intelligent Solutions

## **FLS Private Client Fees**

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### 1. Wills & Trusts:

**Additional Fees may apply according to the complexity of the matter- if applicable**

Single Wills	£350.00
Mirror Wills	£500.00
Life Interest Trust Mirror Wills	£750.00
Single Discretionary Trust Wills	£550.00
Discretionary Trust Mirror Wills	£750.00
Will amendments	£150.00 - £300.00
Single Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) for an individual	£650.00
Both types of Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs) for an individual	£850.00
Single Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) for a couple	£850.00
Both types of Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs) for a couple	£1,250.00
Standard Fee for Severance of Joint Tenancy	£350.00
Deed of Variation	£1,250.00
Secure Document Storage Annual Fee	£25.00

### 2. Probate:

Applying for a Grant of Probate only (Fixed Fee)	£1500.00
Submitting IHT forms and applying for a Grant of Probate only	£3000.00
Hourly Rate	£350.00
Probate – Administration of Estate for estates valued under £3 million	An hourly rate is charged based on the time spent on your matter
Probate – Administration of Estate for estates valued over £3 million	1% of the estate value

**\*All fees are subject to VAT at applicable rate currently 20%.**

### 3. Probate Costs Explained:

## **Our Hourly Rate:**

Our fees are based mainly on the time spent by the fee earner and staff acting for our clients. This includes time spent in meetings, drafting of documents; reading and research; preparing and working on papers and correspondence; telephone calls; and any time spent travelling or waiting while on clients' business.

Our firm's hourly rates are as follows:

**Managing Solicitor/ Partner - £350.00 per hour**  
**Senior Solicitor - £350.00 per hour**  
**Solicitor - £250 per hour**  
**Paralegal - £150.00 per hour**

## **Estimates and Cost Transparency**

At the outset, we will provide a written estimate of the likely costs and any foreseeable disbursements. Should it become necessary to revise this estimate, we will notify you in writing and explain the reasons for the change.

The total cost will depend on the work required and the complexity 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, several properties, foreign assets and multiple bank accounts, costs will be at the higher end.

## **Our services**

We can help you through this difficult process by obtaining the grant of representation (probate). We will also undertake the collecting and distributing of the assets. In addition to our fees there will be disbursements, which are expenses, payable to third parties, related to your matter such as Probate Registry fees, land registry charges etc. We handle the payment of the disbursements on your behalf to ensure a smooth process.

## **Applying for the Grant of Representation Only**

We can also apply for the Grant of Representation only where the executors are able to deal with the estate themselves (i.e. obtaining probate valuations, collecting in all the assets, paying the liabilities and then distributing the estate) we can assist with the legal formalities of obtaining the Grant of Representation, allowing the Executors to deal with the remainder of the administration themselves.

We charge a fixed fee of £1500 plus VAT for applying for the Grant of Probate only.

## **Full Estate Administration**

Alternatively, we can handle the entire administration process for you. For a more complex estate, the Executors may wish to instruct us to deal with the entire estate.

**The fees below typically include time spent advising on the terms of the Will, the executors' duties and calculating the Inheritance Tax (IHT) where appropriate, preparing the IHT tax returns, dealing with any settling of documents at the probate registry, filing section 27 (of the Trustee Act 1925) notices and ultimately extracting**

## **the Grant of Representation from the probate registry.**

Upon instruction, we will review the matter and provide you with estimates of costs based on the time estimated to be spent on dealing with the entirety of the estate administration. We attempt to provide a cost estimate range at the outset but this is based entirely on information that we have at that time and so can change during the course of the administration. We will of course communicate such changes to you in good time to allow you decide how you wish to progress the matter.

Our service in this regard typically includes collating all the information about the assets and liabilities in the estate, securing any property, identifying & advising beneficiaries, dealing with personal chattels, liaising with relevant third parties, dealing with all aspects of the Inheritance Tax liability including filing returns, applying for the grant, distribution of assets and drafting of estate accounts.

This is dealt with purely on a time spent basis using the hourly rates set out above. Once we have the information to obtain the Grant of Representation, we review the costs and advise the beneficiaries of the potential costs to complete the estate.

Our fees range from between £2,500 plus VAT for a simple estate worth in the region of £325,000 with one beneficiary to fees that would start from £15,000 for estates involving assets worth over £1 million with several beneficiaries, investments, portfolios and properties.

When we first meet with you, we will obtain information about the estate that will enable us to give you a tailored fee estimate that takes account of all the factors. As the matter progresses, we provide information on updated costs and monitor the costs throughout.

### **What is not included in our fees:**

The information on costs provided above does not include:

1. Preparation of Income/Capital Gains Tax Returns
2. Advice on any Trusts contained within the Will
3. Deeds of variation
4. Sale of property or foreign assets.
5. Estates where there is a dispute as this can be passed to a litigation department or be more complex
6. Where business assets, agricultural property, foreign assets or ongoing trusts are involved

The above fees do not include the fees for dealing with any sale of that property. Our Conveyancing team can provide you with an estimate of their fees.

The above fees do not include drafting of Wills, Trusts and additional LPAs that may arise following the probate administration, you will need to obtain a separate quote from our team.

### **Disbursement costs :**

Court Fee for Grant of Representation	300.00
Copies of Sealed Grant (Per Copy)	3.00
Copy Death Certificate	11.00
Bankruptcy Search Fee and ID check (UK Beneficiary)	13.20

Bankruptcy Search Fee (Foreign Beneficiary)	Dependent on location of beneficiary
Land Registry Title Fee	7.00
Asset Search	£198

**How long will the work take?**

On average, to fully administer an estate takes between 8-12 months. Typically, obtaining the Grant of Representation takes 3 - 6 months and collecting assets and preparing the estate accounts then follows, which can take between 6 - 8 weeks.

Once this has been done, we can distribute the assets, which normally take 4-6 weeks. However, it is important to note that this depends on how complex the estate is and how quickly other parties involved, deal with the matter. Complexity may arise from family dynamics, missing beneficiaries, missing assets, unclear instructions etc.

**Disputed Estate:**

The information we provide above does not cover any “contentious” element to the estate, i.e. where something is disputed. A dispute may arise for example, where someone seeks to challenge the Will or bring a claim under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 or where an issue arises in relation to a particular asset in the estate. Proceedings do not have to be issued for the matter to become contentious.

In these circumstances we will provide details of the likely costs and disbursements involved in dealing with the contentious/disputed aspect of the matter and may need to refer to a Litigation Department.