

GOOD LAW INTERNATIONAL LTD

Price Transparency – Uncontested Probate

The Services

When someone passes away it is often necessary to obtain a Grant of Representation to obtain the authority to deal with the deceased’s assets and liabilities whether or not a Will has been made. When there is a Will, this is known as a “Grant of Probate”. Otherwise, the document issued will be a “Grant of Letters of Administration”.

Instructing a solicitor with specialist knowledge of the process required to wind up an estate can help you at this difficult time. We can obtain the Grant on your behalf and will also be able to collect in and distribute the assets to beneficiaries and assist with any other matters that arise in relation to the estate and any ongoing trust.

What we will do for you is as follows:

- Take your instructions
- Review of the Will (if applicable)
- Obtain a Grant of Representation
- Identification the executors or administrators and the type of Grant required
- Completing all requisite documents and forms
- Dealing with winding up the estate
- Collection and distribution of the assets to beneficiaries

Assumptions on your uncontested probate matter:

- There is a valid Will
- There is no Will but it is not necessary to trace beneficiaries under intestacy
- There is no more than one property
- All assets and liabilities are held in the UK and the deceased was UK domiciled
- There are bank accounts held with no more than five banks
- There are up to six beneficiaries and they are all traceable / contactable
- There are no disputes between beneficiaries on the division of assets
- If there are shares, these are held with one registrar
- 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
- No trust is created in the Will
- No Deed of Variation is required or requested
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If there is any foreign element to an estate, including where there is any possibility that the deceased person may be considered to have been domiciled outside the UK, it is important to seek legal advice. There may be a conflict between English law and the law of the country where the assets are located and there may be additional tax considerations.

Our Team

Our team are very experienced in all aspects of probate matters and their work is supervised by an experienced Solicitor or Director. You can view the team on our Team page on our website.

Timescales

The time it takes for us to obtain the information required to prepare the probate application often takes 2 to 6 weeks. Typically, obtaining the Grant (once the application has been sent to the Registry) takes 3 to 6 months. Collecting the assets then follows, which can take up to 8 weeks depending upon the assets in question. Finalising and approving the estate accounts and distributing the assets to the beneficiaries can then take up to 3 months.

On average, this type of work is then dealt with between 6 to 12 months from instruction. This will depend upon the assets held in the estate, the efficiency and responsiveness of third parties, and on how promptly the executors are able to liaise with us and sign documents.

Legal Fees

Our legal fees will depend upon the complexity and on the individual circumstances of the matter. We will charge out our time on hourly rate for uncontested probate matters. Our team's hourly rates are currently as follows:

| Fee Earner | Position | Chargeable Rate per hour (inc. VAT) |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Atef Elmarakby | Managing Director | £600.00 |
| Lina Algurashi | Legal Executive | £240.00 |
| Baher Saleh | International Associate | £240.00 |
| Omar Elzayat | International Associate | £240.00 |

A straightforward uncontested probate matter would usually take between 20 and 30 hours of work. Therefore, our legal costs for such a matter would be within a range of £3,000 to £10,500 (plus VAT, costs and disbursements) depending on the complexity of the matter and the experience of the fee earner carrying out the work.

Please note that if you require us only to obtain the Grant of Probate, but not to administer the estate, then our legal costs would then be within a range of £1,500.00 to £5,000.00 (plus VAT, costs and disbursements).

Alternatively, if you already have the Grant of Probate and require us to administer the estate, then our legal costs would be within a range of £1,500.00 to £7,500.00 (plus VAT, costs and disbursements).

Costs and Disbursements

We will also incur costs and disbursements on your behalf in your uncontested probate matter. Disbursements are costs related to your matter that are payable to third parties, such as Land Registry fees. We handle the payment of these disbursements on your behalf.

Your uncontested probate matter may incur the following costs and/or disbursements:

| Cost / Disbursement | Total Cost |
|---|---|
| Land Charges Department Search (per person) | £1(post)/£2(portal) |
| Probate Application Fee | £300.00 if the estate is worth more than £5,000.00 If the estate is worth less than or equal to £5,000.00 there is no fee. |
| Swearing of the Oath (fee per executor) | £5.00 +£2 for any exhibits |
| Further copies of the Grant (fee per copy) | £2.00 |
| Land Registry Official Copy (fee per title) | £7(post)/£3(portal) |
| London Gazette notice | £104.76 |
| Local Paper notice | Variable |
| Property Valuation | Variable |
| Asset Search | Variable |
| National Will Register Search | £65.00 |
| Bank Transfer Fee (per transfer) | £54.00 (inclusive of VAT) |
| ID Administration Fee (per person) | £24.00 (inclusive of VAT) |
| Company Search Fee (per Company) | £36.00 (inclusive of VAT) |
| Foreign National Search Fee (per person) | £60.00 (inclusive of VAT) |