

Guardian Solicitors - Probate Services

What is included in our probate service

As part of our service, we will:

- Provide you with a dedicated and experienced Probate Solicitor to manage your matter.
- Identify the legally appointed Executors.
- Accurately determine the type of probate application required.
- Obtain the necessary documents to support your application.
- Complete the relevant HMRC inheritance tax forms.
- Draft the Legal Oath (or Statement of Truth) for the Executors to swear or sign.
- Submit the probate application to the Probate Registry on your behalf.
- Supply you with official copies of the Grant of Probate (and the original Grant, if required).

Please note: Our service does not cover collecting or distributing estate assets, providing advice on the terms of the Will, or implementing its terms beyond incidental or brief clarifications.

Disbursements

Disbursements are additional costs payable to third parties. We handle these payments on your behalf to ensure a smooth process. These may include:

- Court fees for the application.
- Additional official copies of the Grant of Probate.
- Bankruptcy search fees (£2 per search) - carried out on Executors at the outset and on each beneficiary prior to distribution. Please note: bankruptcy searches are valid for one month, so multiple searches may be needed for multiple distributions.

Timeframes

The time needed to obtain a Grant of Probate depends largely on whether an inheritance tax return is required and HMRC clearance has been obtained:

- Where HMRC clearance (IHT400 submission) is required: interim clearance typically takes 1 to 2 months from submission. Once clearance is received, the Grant is usually issued within 7 to 10 working days of submitting paperwork to the Probate Registry.

These are general guidelines. Actual timings depend on third parties, including HMRC and the Probate Registry.

Full Estate Administration

Where we are instructed to handle the full administration of the estate (collecting assets, paying liabilities, distributing the estate), our work is charged at an hourly rate:

Devendra Rampersaud (Solicitor): £325 + VAT per hour

Trainee Solicitor (if assisting): £125 + VAT per hour

We do not charge for routine secretarial or reception tasks. However, if support staff assist with tasks that would otherwise be performed by a solicitor, this time is charged at £50 per hour.

We estimate that full estate administration will take between 20 and 40 hours, depending on the complexity of the estate. Estimated total costs: £3,000 to £9,200 + VAT.

For more information about our team, please visit our [Meet the Team](#) page on our website.