

Whiterose Blackmans Solicitors LLP

Information for Clients - Wills and Probate

Introduction-

As part of our professional rules we aim to ensure that anyone wishing to utilise our services has the information they need to make an informed choice of legal services provider including what the costs may be.

WILLS - Why Instruct Whiterose Blackmans Solicitors?

Making a Will does not have to be stressful. Early planning has many advantages and planning your Will gives peace of mind and reassurance that your loved ones will be provided for. You can ensure that your assets pass to your chosen beneficiaries and family members. Our team of professionals at Whiterose Blackmans Solicitors fully appreciates the importance of this and will ably assist you in making a Will and guiding you through this sensitive process with as few complications as possible. A Will can also contain provisions for the ongoing care of minor children, business and even detail your funeral wishes. It will ensure that the people you trust are appointed to fulfil your wishes and manage things when you are no longer able to.

Our Fees-

Standard Will Fixed fee service which includes a telephone or video meeting arranged with a Solicitor-

Single Will - £250 plus VAT

Mirror Will - £350 plus VAT (married couples, co-habiting couples or civil partnerships)

What Is Included?

This fee includes–

- (a) Advice on Existing Will(s)
- (b) Advice on Choice of Executor
- (c) Advice on Distribution of the Estate
- (d) Advice on Inheritance Tax threshold
- (e) Solicitor drafted bespoke Will

The fee may be higher if your estate is especially large or your instructions are complex. This can be discussed further at your initial consultation.

What Is Not Included?

Disbursements- These are third party costs relating to your matter which can include but are not limited to the following:

- Interpreter or Translator fees

We can also offer advice on secure Will storage.

PROBATE and ESTATE ADMINISTRATION:

Acting as a personal representative and administering an estate after someone has died can be extremely difficult especially when the person who has passed on was a close family member or friend. The procedure can take a long time and can be complex with many unfamiliar issues to deal with which can be daunting. We appreciate that certain matters are highly sensitive and emotive and may require professional guidance. We appreciate that certain matters are highly sensitive and emotive and may require professional guidance.

Estate administration involves many different stages dealing with many third parties and can be time consuming and draining in times of grief. The range includes registering the death, organising the funeral, obtaining the Grant of Probate/Letters of Administration, calculating the amount of Inheritance Tax liability and paying this, identifying the assets and debts and distributing the estate to the correct beneficiaries. Our solicitors can assist you with advice on probate and estate administration that will guide you in a practical and thorough way through difficult and challenging times.

Our Fees

Our fees will vary depending on the terms of the Will (or if the deceased died without leaving a Will the extent of the family left behind), the complexity of the estate and the type of assets they owned.

Fixed Fee

In certain cases, we are able to offer a fixed fee for our services. In this scenario, you would gather all the relevant details of the deceased's estate and we would prepare the application for probate and the inheritance tax application and file this with the Probate Registry.

We will provide you with a questionnaire which you will be required to complete. We will rely on the information provided and we will not provide any advice as to the accuracy of the information provided to HM Revenue and Customs. We will not be able to complete the work required to obtain the Grant of Probate without having been supplied with all the information required from you.

Thereafter, once the probate has been granted, the representatives are tasked with the distribution of the estate whether this is following the terms of a will or via the rules of intestacy.

Non-Taxable Estates

Any estate where no inheritance tax is due because the value of the whole estate is worth less than £325,000.00

Legal Fees - from £720 inc VAT

Probate Court Fee - £155.00

Copies of Probate Grant - £1.50

**Any further disbursements payable, please disbursements schedule below.*

Estates subject to Inheritance Tax

Any estate where inheritance tax is due because the value of the estate is worth more than £325,000.00.

Legal Fees – from £1800.00 inc VAT

Probate Court Fee - £155.00

Copies of Probate Grant - £1.50

**Any further disbursements payable, please disbursements schedule below.*

The probate registry usually deal with these applications within a few weeks. However this is on the basis that you have provided all the information and the application has been lodged with the Registry. Once the grant is granted, you will be provided a copy of the original and any copies you requested in order that you can then deal with collecting in the estate and accordingly distribute the assets.

Full Administration

In our initial consultation we will listen to your concerns and questions and advise you what level of support is required. Once we are instructed to assist you our Team can offer the following services-

1. Obtaining initial instructions, reviewing papers and providing advice at the onset.
2. Preparing legal documents and grant applications to obtain a Grant of Probate or Grant of Letters of Administration
3. Undertake the full administration of the estate. This will involve contacting third parties, collecting in assets, paying any liabilities and distributing the estate in accordance with the terms of the deceased's Will or in accordance with the rules of intestacy if there is no Will.

We will discuss these options with you and based on your circumstances we will advise you on the best option for you.

Our overall professional fees are calculated on the amount of time spent dealing with these matters based on the solicitor's hourly rate. This ranges between £180 to £200 plus VAT.

If you instruct our firm on a full administration basis, each case is unique so it is very difficult to provide an overall quote of our professional fees for administering a full estate without us knowing the estate and what it contains. Estates can range from being straightforward to complex and we would need to be fully aware of the work needed to be undertaken before our overall professional fees can be determined.

Foreign Assets/Beneficiaries-

If there are foreign assets to be included this will incur additional time to ascertain and this will increase the costs accordingly. Any additional time spent will be charged for on an hourly rate basis. It may also be necessary to instruct tracing agents to locate and appropriately identify unknown beneficiaries. This is more likely in cases where the deceased died intestate and there are very few close relatives. This too will increase the time spent on the matter and will incur additional expenses/disbursements.

If there are foreign beneficiaries to locate and contact this will incur additional time and this will increase the costs accordingly. Any additional time spent will be charged for on an hourly rate basis. If foreign beneficiaries are identified it will be necessary to carry out foreign bankruptcy searches against their name. This too will increase the time spent on the matter and will incur additional expenses/disbursements.

Estate Expenses/Disbursements-

These are third party expenses/disbursements that may be necessary during the matter. These costs are in addition to our professional fees. Not all expenses may be relevant to the administration of every estate, but they give a clearer idea of what may be expected. We will discuss what may be relevant to you. These can include-

Details of Disbursement/Expense When Due	Likely Cost	VAT Chargeable?
---	-------------	-----------------

1. Probate Registry Application Fee
£155 (plus £1.50 per Court Sealed Copy provided)
No
Upon application for Grant of Representation
2. Office Copy Entries-Land Registry
£3 per title
£3 per plan (if required)
Yes
Upon application to the Land Registry
3. Property Valuation Fee
£ 150-£500 (estimated)
Yes
Upon receipt of the valuation report
4. Asset Valuation Fee
(such as chattels and business interests)
£dependent on asset type
Yes
Upon receipt of the valuation fee
5. Beneficiary Bankruptcy Searches
£2 per name search
Yes
At the onset of the matter and upon each distribution to them
6. Foreign Beneficiary Bankruptcy Searches
£ dependent on jurisdiction of the beneficiary
Yes
At the onset of the matter and upon each distribution to them
7. House Clearance Costs
£ dependent on amount to be cleared
Yes
Upon completion of the house clearance
8. BAC's Fees (electronic payment fees)

£10 for next day (dependent on the amount)

£30 for same day

Yes

Upon making payment

9. Estate Agent Fees

£ dependent on value of the property

Yes

Upon completion of the sale of the property

10. Copy Death Certificate Fees

£14 per copy

No

Upon registering the death

11. Copy Grant of Representation Fees

£10 per copy

No

Upon application for copy

12. Indemnity Fees (lost share certificates, lost policy documents)

£ dependent on value of shareholding

Yes

Upon provision of the indemnity (usually when shares are to be sold/transferred)

Our Wills and Probate Team-

Wakash Waheed - Partner and Probate Solicitor

Kareemah Al'Hassan- Senior Probate Solicitor