

**BRAY & KRAIS SOLICITORS
PROBATE AND ESTATE ADMINISTRATION:
A GUIDE TO OUR PRICING**

Udo Onwere – Partner

Udo is the head of our team and has over 10 years' experience in private client work, specialising in wills and probate. Udo has been working in this area since he qualified and has helped many families and individuals.

Udo qualified as a solicitor in 2008 and completed his training contract at Thomas Eggar LLP (now Irwin Mitchell) before joining Farrer Co LLP and then moving to our firm in 2016 as a partner.

Udo has also completed several professional development courses in probate and estate administration and is professionally recognised as a Trusts and Estates Practitioner (TEP).

Our Range of Costs for Probate Work

If we were instructed to apply for a grant of probate for an estate:

- with straightforward assets (which do not include non-UK assets)
- where there is no dispute in relation to the distribution of the estate
- where there is no inheritance tax liability
- where our role is limited to:
 - liaising with the executors and taking their instructions
 - obtaining details of the value of the estate
 - preparing the probate application and having it sworn
 - lodging the probate application in the Probate Registry and extracting the grant of representation and certified copies,

we would expect our legal fees to be in the range £2,000 to £2,500.

Our fee estimates are calculated on an hourly basis. The charge out rates for our fee earners vary between £175 to £350 per hour depending on their seniority and experience. All fee estimates shown are exclusive of VAT which will be added where applicable to each bill.

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.

We will handle the full process for you. This quote is for estates where:

- There is a valid will
- There is no more than one property

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- There are no more than 5 bank or building society accounts
- There are no other intangible assets
- There are 2-4 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

Disbursements in addition to this fee:

- Probate application fee of £215.00
- £5.00 Swearing of the oath (per executor)
- Bankruptcy-only Land Charges Department searches (£2.00 per beneficiary)
- £64.25 Post in The London Gazette – Protects against unexpected claims from unknown creditors.

Disbursements 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.

Potential additional costs

- If there is no will or the estate consists of any shareholdings (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.
- If any additional copies of the grant are required, they will cost £0.50 (1 per asset usually).
- The completion of inheritance tax returns or negotiating with HMRC.
- Collecting and distributing the assets.

How long will this take?

On average, the administration of this type of estate should be completed within a period of 4 to 8 months. Typically, the stages of the administration would be:

- Obtaining the grant of probate – 3 to 6 months
- Collecting the assets – 3 to 6 weeks
- Distributing the assets – 1 week