

At Blacks Legal, we understand that dealing with the estate of a loved one is a difficult and emotional time. Our goal is to provide clear, transparent, and expert legal support to guide you through the process efficiently.

As a London-based firm (WC1H), we offer the expertise of a city practice with the personal attention of a boutique firm. Below, we set out our fee structures for **Grant Only** services and **Full Estate Administration** for 2026.

### **Grant of Probate Only (Fixed Fee)**

This service is designed for Executors who wish to administer the estate themselves but require professional assistance to obtain the legal authority (the Grant) to do so.

| <b>Service Level</b>                       | <b>Fee</b> | <b>VAT (20%)</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|------------|------------------|--------------|
| <b>Standard Grant Only</b>                 | £1,500     | £300             | £1,800       |
| <b>Grant with IHT400 (Full Tax Return)</b> | £2,750     | £550             | £3,300       |

### **What is included in the Standard Grant fee?**

- An initial consultation with a dedicated Probate Solicitor.
- Reviewing the Will and Death Certificate.
- Completing the Probate Application and Statement of Truth.
- Completing the simplified HMRC Inheritance Tax form (IHT205/IHT207).
- Submitting the application to the Probate Registry.
- Providing you with the Grant of Probate once issued.

### **What is NOT included?**

- Valuing the assets of the estate.
- Communicating with banks, share registrars, or utility providers.
- Collecting assets or paying debts.
- Distributing the estate to beneficiaries.
- Any Inheritance Tax payable.

## Full Estate Administration (Comprehensive Service)

For clients who wish to hand over the entire legal and administrative burden to us. We handle everything from the initial valuation to the final distribution of funds.

Our fees for this service are calculated based on the **Gross Value of the Estate**. This reflects the complexity, risk, and responsibility involved in handling larger asset bases.

### 2026 Fee Scale

| Gross Estate Value      | Fee (% of Estate) | Estimated Fee Range (Excl. VAT) |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Up to £300,000          | Fixed             | £3,500 - £5,000                 |
| £300,001 - £500,000     | 2.5%              | £7,500 - £12,500                |
| £500,001 - £1,000,000   | 2.0%              | £10,000 - £20,000               |
| £1,000,001 - £2,000,000 | 1.5%              | £15,000 - £30,000               |
| Over £2,000,000         | 1.0%              | Bespoke Quote                   |

*Minimum fee for Full Administration: £3,500 + VAT.*

### What is included in Full Administration?

- Notifying all financial institutions and valuing the estate assets.
- Identifying and communicating with all beneficiaries.
- Completing all HMRC Inheritance Tax accounts (IHT400/IHT205).
- Arranging the payment of Inheritance Tax (if applicable).
- Applying for and obtaining the Grant of Probate.
- Collecting all estate assets (closing accounts, selling shares).
- Settling all liabilities and debts.
- Preparing full Estate Accounts.
- Distributing the net estate to beneficiaries.

## Example Cost Scenarios

### Scenario A: Simple Estate (£200,000)

- 1 Property, 2 Bank Accounts, Valid Will.
- **Legal Fee:** £3,500 + VAT (£700) = £4,200.
- **Disbursements:** ~£400.
- **Total Estimated Cost:** £4,600.

### Scenario B: Standard Estate (£600,000)

- 1 Property, Portfolio of Shares, Multiple Accounts, Valid Will.
- **Legal Fee:** 2.0% of £600k = £12,000 + VAT (£2,400) = £14,400.
- **Disbursements:** ~£600.
- **Total Estimated Cost:** £15,000.

## 3. Disbursements (Third-Party Costs)

Disbursements are costs we pay on your behalf. These fees are set by third parties and the Government.

| Item                            | Cost (2026 Rates)                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Probate Application Fee</b>  | £300.00                               |
| <b>Office Copies of Grant</b>   | £16.00 per copy                       |
| <b>Bankruptcy Search</b>        | £2.00 per name                        |
| <b>London Gazette Notice</b>    | ~£110.00 (Protects against creditors) |
| <b>Local Newspaper Notice</b>   | ~£150.00 - £250.00                    |
| <b>Electronic Bank Transfer</b> | £42.00                                |
| <b>ID &amp; AML Check</b>       | £35.00 + VAT per person               |

*Important Note: The Probate Registry fee for office copies increased to £16 per copy in late 2025. We will advise you on the most cost-effective number of copies to order.*

## 4. Hourly Rates

For matters that fall outside standard administration (e.g., Contentious Probate, contesting a Will, or complex foreign assets), we charge based on time spent.

- **Partner:** £450 + VAT per hour.
- **Associate Solicitor:** £350 + VAT per hour.
- **Solicitor:** £275 + VAT per hour.
- **Paralegal:** £180 + VAT per hour.