How much does probate cost?

As a firm we charge on a time basis. You will be given an estimate following your initial meeting with one of our specialised Lawyers and will receive regular updates regarding our charges during the course of the Estate administration. Unlike some other Law firms we do not charge a percentage of the overall estate. To learn more about our costs visit the pricing section of our website.

Who should I contact?

If you need further information or advice please contact our dedicated Private Client team (Wills, Trusts and Probate Department) on 01462 458711 (Hitchin) or 01707 887700 (Welwyn Garden City) who will be happy to provide you with further information and if appropriate arrange a mutually convenient appointment.

HRJ Foreman Laws Solicitors is recognised by Lexcel - the Law Society's quality mark for excellence and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority. We operate to the highest standards required by the Law Society's Conveyancing Quality Scheme (CQS). Our track record in leasehold enfranchisement is acknowledged by ALEP (Association of Leasehold Enfranchisement Practitioners). We follow a professional code of practice recognised by the family law group 'Resolution. As members of STEP we are acknowledged Trust and Estate Practitioners. We also work with Certainty, the National Will Register.

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SG5 1JW

Welwyn Garden City
01707 887700
10 Parkway,
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Old Harlow
01279 709100
Gothic House,
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London
0203 327 9001
53 Davies Street,
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HRJ FOREMAN LAWS
SOLICITORS

PROBATE AND ESTATE ADMINISTRATION

We're here to help you at this difficult time.

When you feel ready to organise the personal affairs of a loved one who has passed away, you'll need the right support and guidance to ensure everything happens as smoothly as possible.

Here at HRJ Foreman Law Solicitors, we have a dedicated specialist team to provide you with all the support and advice you need during the probate and estate administration process.

Grant of Probate or Letters of Administration

Following the death of a loved one it may be necessary, depending upon the value of their estate and the assets held, to obtain either a Grant of Probate (if they died leaving a Will) or Letters of Administration (if they died without leaving a Will (Intestate).

These documents are essentially the Courts authority delegated to the Executors (the persons appointed under the Will to deal with the estate) or Administrators (persons responsible under the intestacy provisions) authorising them to deal with the Estate, i.e. close bank accounts and deal with the sale or transfer of the deceased's property.

Inheritance Tax

The application for Probate or Letters of Administration consists of a Statement of Truth which will need to be signed by the Executors/Administrators and the Inland Revenue Account. The purpose of the Inland Revenue Account is to provide HMRC with a breakdown of all assets held by the deceased in their sole name or jointly as at the date of death. The Account will calculate as to whether any Inheritance Tax is payable.

Depending upon the Deceased's circumstances there may be as many as four inheritance tax allowances to be claimed. Certain assets may also qualify for inheritance tax relief. You should seek professional advice to ensure that the estate claims all the allowances available to it, and that you aren't paying more than you need to. HMRC certainly won't help!

Executors and Administrators – Duties

Broadly the Executors/Administrators will be responsible for:

- Registering the death with all interested parties, such as Banks, Building Societies, Share Registrars, Insurance companies etc,
- Ascertaining the assets held and their value as at the date of death,
- Drafting and submitting the Grant Application (the Statement of Truth and Inland Revenue Account) to the Probate Registry,
- Registering the Grant with all interested parties together with instructions re closure or transfer of assets/accounts
- Settling outstanding debts; and
- Ultimately distributing the Estate in accordance with the terms of the Will or the Intestacy provisions.

How can we help?

At HRJ Foreman Laws we have a team of Lawyers who specialise in the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Tax. We understand that your situation is unique and will tailor our advice to your specific needs. We can manage all aspects of the Estate administration and provide a complete administration service that includes all the duties previously highlighted, together with:

- How best to administer the estate in regard to the nature of the assets held
- Advising on opportunities to save tax not only for the Estate but also for the Beneficiaries (the persons due to inherit – perhaps you or future generations)
- Completing final income tax returns and claiming a repayment of overpaid tax if appropriate
- Preparing detailed accounts showing the assets held, income received and the manner in which the estate has been distributed