

Wills

Your Will is possibly one of the most important legal documents you will make. Careful planning and consideration can help you to secure a future for those you leave behind. If you do not leave a Will, you are considered to die intestate, which means that the law decides who will inherit your property and your estate will not be distributed in accordance with your wishes.

Single straightforward Will	£200 + VAT
Mirrored straightforward Wills for a couple	£300 + VAT
Complex Wills or Wills that include Trusts	Fees to be advised during appointment.

Lasting Powers of Attorney

What is it?

It's a document by which you grant one or more people, who you trust, the legal authority to make decisions about managing your property and finances, or about your health and welfare, on your behalf.

It can be drawn up at any time while you have the mental capacity and it's not just for the elderly; younger people may become incapacitated through accident or illness.

Why do I need one?

Gives *you* the right to choose who will have the responsibility for looking after your affairs; giving you control over the decisions you want to be made on your behalf, the people who you want to make these decisions and how you want those people to make these decisions. Don't assume your partner will be able to make those decisions – they too would need to be appointed as attorney.

The alternative?

Once you've lost capacity an application must be made to court for a deputy to be appointed. This is a costly and time-consuming process and means that you have no control over who is appointed or what decisions they are able to make.

And if you change your mind a Lasting Power of Attorney can be cancelled while you still have capacity.

Single Donor one LPA	£350 + VAT
Single Donor two LPAs	£500 + VAT
Two Donors two LPAs	£500 + VAT
Two Donors four LPAs	£650 + Vat

+ Office of the Public Guardian Registration fees of £82 per document

Probate and Estate Administration

We appreciate that when someone passes away it can be a very emotional time – you can rely on our Private Client team to take care of the essentials. Probate and the administration of the estate can be highly confusing, especially at a time when there is already so much to deal with. We can assist with the application for probate of the Will or advise you in your capacity as an Executor.

As Executor you have a responsibility to administer the estate property – you will need to establish the extent of the estate, pay any debts and liabilities, and then distribute the balance of the estate in accordance with the Will. We can help and guide through the administration. Our charges are based on a combination of the time spent by us and the value of the estate. The time spent will be charged at the hourly rate of the person dealing with the matter (£210-£280) plus VAT. So far as the value element is concerned, this will be charged in addition to time spent and will be 0.5% of the value of any freehold/leasehold property comprised in the estate (or 0.75%) if we are the Executor) and 1% of the gross value of all the other assets comprised in the estate (or 1.5% if we are the Executor).

In the vast majority of cases, we anticipate the work required to be undertaking will take us between 8 – 46 hours.

In addition to our charges there will be certain disbursements which we will have to make on your behalf:

- Probate Court fee - £300 + £1.50 for each additional sealed copy required.
- Notices to protect against unknown creditors – £250 plus VAT
- File retention fee - £59 + VAT
- Valuation fees

Above is an indication of our fees for dealing with various Private Client matters.

For a detailed quote and for price information relating to other services not listed below, please contact us.

Please note any reference to VAT is at the current rate of 20% unless otherwise stated.

Stages of the Process –

The precise stages involved in the process of dealing with someone's estate varies according to the circumstances. However, below are some of key stages which the process would usually include:-

- Initial appointment to understand what assets and debts make up the estate, provide our initial advice and take your instructions. Send out our client engagement documentation to be completed and returned.
- Contact the banks, building societies and any investment accounts holding assets owned by the deceased and any creditors. Obtain the values of any property owned by the deceased and any shareholdings.
- After receiving all information regarding the deceased's assets and liabilities we will prepare the application for the grant of probate.

- Complete inheritance tax forms and arrange the payment of any inheritance tax (if applicable).
- We then receive grant of probate, which in some circumstances can take up to 16 weeks from when the application is submitted.
- Send the grant to all asset holders and obtain all assets belonging to the deceased which can include the sale of a property (if applicable).
- Pay any outstanding debts and taxes owed by the estate.
- Pay all the beneficiaries of the estate.
- Prepare a statement of account that will detail the financial estate administration.