**Mark L Ryan Solicitors Pricing & Service Guide 1st May 2025**

Our commitment to transparent pricing

We are committed to providing you with the best possible information about the likely overall cost of your case, both at the time of engagement and when appropriate as the matter progresses.

We are also committed to giving you enough information to help you make an informed choice about the legal services you need and that includes an understanding of what the costs might be. To help you to do this we provide you with information about our services and the prices we charge for them.

Our experience and qualifications

We use experienced and well-qualified staff on all engagements. You will be told who is handling your matter but irrespective of who is handling your file, all work is overseen by Mark Leslie Ryan, a Solicitor of over 30 years post qualification experience.

Our Fees

If we provide you with a fee estimate or quotation for a piece of work then, perhaps obviously, this is made in good faith based upon the information we have before us at the time the estimate is given. We will tell you if it becomes apparent that our fees are likely to exceed an estimate that we have given and we will discuss and agree with you the best way forward.

All our fees may be quoted as inclusive or exclusive of VAT and disbursements where applicable.

Charging Rates

Although we try wherever possible to quote a fixed fee for your work, sometimes we invoice on the basis of the time our professional staff have been engaged on your matter. Our charging rates are reviewed annually. The charging rate for Mark Leslie Ryan for the calendar year 2025 is £300 plus VAT (of £60) per hour.

NB 1 – Throughout this guide, the word ‘Disbursements’ appears. Disbursements are costs incurred relating to your matter that are payable to third parties such as court fees, barrister’s fees and the like. The amount of these disbursements may change from time to time. Some disbursements attract VAT and some do not. It is not possible to provide an exhaustive list in this guide. We will tell you which disbursements on your case attract VAT and which do not.

NB 2 – Throughout this guide, the acronym ‘VAT’ appears. This refers to Value Added Tax and is currently chargeable at 20%

*We deal with a wide range of legal topics, but to keep this mandatory document to a manageable length, we have only set out in this guide our fees for those matters which we are obliged to publish fees for, namely uncontested Probate – see below.*

*We may add to this pricing guide at any time and the fees for any type of legal work that is not currently listed in this guide will be set out separately but will still be within the spirit of our commitment set out above.*

**PROBATE**

We have almost 50 years of collective experience in delivering high quality work in all matters relating to Wills and estate administration.

Our Fees

Obviously, fees vary because estates vary – they vary in size, complexity and work involved. It is not possible to consider every possible type of case we may be presented with. Every case is dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Some cases are charged according to hourly rates (see above for the current rate) and in certain circumstances (we can tell you if these apply to you), we may instead be able to offer you a global fixed fee (ie inclusive of disbursements and all VAT payable). Even with fixed fees, these vary depending upon what is required. We may also charge fees based upon a percentage of the gross estate. We will discuss and agree which type of fees are applicable to your case before any work commences.

Here are just two examples of types of Probate cases:-

*Example 1 - Non-taxable estate (ie no Inheritance Tax Account is required)– where we are only asked to obtain the Grant of Probate and, quite specifically, we are not instructed to do anything else.*

If we are instructed to apply for the grant in an estate where there is a valid Will and no Inheritance Tax Account is required, we anticipate that our fees would be in the region of £600 plus VAT (of £120) to £1500 plus VAT (of £300) and Probate application fee of £300 (no VAT is payable on Court fees)

*Example 2 - taxable estate – and we are instructed to do the full estate administration*

If we are instructed to apply for the Grant of Probate in estate where there is a valid Will and the estate is subject to a full Inheritance Tax Account being required, we anticipate that our fees could be anywhere from £1,500 plus VAT (of £300) and disbursements, and upwards. It is impossible, within this guide, to set a ceiling on fees which may be charged.

Anticipated disbursements might include:

* Probate application fee of £300 (plus £1.50 per Court sealed copy) (no VAT is payable on Court fees)
* Creditor notices under s.27 Trustee Act 1925 of £200-£400 plus VAT (of £40 to £80)
* Property valuation fees of £100 to £500 plus VAT (of £20 to £100)
* Insurance of empty property (p.a.) of £900 plus vat (of £180) (although this can only be an approximation as there are a great many other matters to consider)

Whilst not a disbursement to our invoice, the estate would have an Inheritance Tax liability to settle with HMRC. The attached link can help explain how Inheritance Tax is charged:-

<https://www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax>

Our services

Our services in the first example are as limited as already set out within that example. In the second example our work would usually include most or all of the following:-

* Identify the legally appointed executors/administrators and beneficiaries
* Accurately identify the type of Probate/other Grant application
* Obtain the relevant documents required to make that application
* Complete the Probate/other Grant Application and relevant HMRC forms
* Advising on eligibility to claim the available Inheritance Tax allowances (Nil Rate band, Transferable Nil Rate Band, Residence Nil Rate Band and Transferable Residence Nil Rate band, and there may also be Business and Agricultural reliefs available)
* Calculating the estate’s Inheritance Tax liability and advising you on amount required to obtain the Grant of Probate
* Make the application to the Probate Registry on your behalf.
* Correspond with bank and financial institutions to raise cash to fund the estate’s Inheritance Tax liability
* Obtain the Grant of Probate and send copies to you and the financial institutions
* Collect and distribute all assets in the estate and settle the debts and expenses
* Provide a financial statement detailing all the transactions in the estate
* Correspond with you and the beneficiaries at agreed intervals

As mentioned, the exact cost will depend on the individual circumstances of the matter. If any of the “complicating factors” mentioned below are applicable to the estate then this will inevitably create additional work and therefore increase the level of this firm’s costs. We will tell you this and agree type of fees with you.

*How long will this take?*

The length of time it takes to administer a taxable estate can vary and depends on its specific circumstances. On average, such estates can take many months to administer and are often subject to delay as we are reliant on HMRC agreeing the estate’s tax liability. On average a taxable estate within our simple example can be dealt within 6 – 24 months of us being instructed.

*Complicating factors that affect the level of our fees for all estates*

If any of the following factors exist for any estate, there is likely to be additional fees that would affect the fees we charge:

* Disputes between beneficiaries or between Executors
* Considering and/or applying for Business and/or Agricultural Property Reliefs
* Complicated Intestacy provisions
* Operating or selling a business
* Attendance at any properties including supervising the clearance
* Dealing with shares in a privately owned company
* Dealing with complicated stocks/shares investments
* Assets abroad
* Assets of a specialised nature e.g. classic cars, heritage items etc.
* Complex tax issues and/or dealing with HMRC investigations
* The Will is unclear or disputed in any way
* Property Title issues, e.g. missing title deeds
* Transferring (rather than encashing) existing investments to beneficiaries
* Deeds of Variation, disclaimer and renunciation of appointment as executor
* Engagement in litigation or threatened or anticipated litigation (including caveats)
* All other duties of an unusual, unforeseen or complex nature

We can give you a more accurate quote once we have full details of the estate’s profile and circumstances.

*And finally, as we said at the start of this guide, we are more than happy to explain any aspect of our fees to you at any time. Please do not hesitate to contact with any queries you may have.*

MARK LESLIE RYAN 1st May 2025