



Jane Gilding
Solicitor



Robert Butler
Solicitor

Are you paying too much?

Many people are shocked when they receive the bill for the administration of even a relatively straight forward estate. At this stage, when it is too late to do anything about it, they begin to wish that they had shopped around for a quote. And the beneficiaries won't be thanking them for spending their inheritance either.

What can I do about it?

You need to make the right choices at the beginning.

As executors or administrators you are free to seek assistance in whichever way and from whoever you want. It does not matter if the will was prepared by a particular solicitor, you are not tied to them for the administration; the choice is yours.

Whether you are simply looking for assistance in getting the grant of probate (or administration) or seeking a complete administration service, it is essential that you consider the cost implications. You should get several quotes and satisfy yourself that your choice offers you the best all round value for money, based on cost and service provision.

Gard & Co. view costs on administration of estates as crucial and from the outset our costs will be made clear. In many circumstances we will act under a fixed fee, particularly where matters are quite straight forward. Our expertise means we can easily assess the amount of work involved and give a quote that represents real value for money securing as much as possible to pass on to beneficiaries.

GARD & CO

4 Bretonside, Plymouth
Tel: 01752 668246
www.gardandco.com

What should it cost?

This is impossible to state without details of the particular estate because every estate varies in terms of value and complexity. However, as a comparative example, the costs from various providers are given below for an uncomplicated estate valued at £300,000 (prices correct at July 2009):

Organisation	Charging method	Cost	You save
Bank A	4.75% of value of estate (estates up to £500k)	£14,250	£11,250
Bank B	4.25% (estates up to £500k)	£12,750	£9,750
Bank C	4.5 % for 1 st £100K 3.5% for balance up to £500K	£11,500	£8,500
Most other solicitors	Hourly rate + up to 2% of value of estate	£8-9,000	£5-6,000
Gard & Co.	Fixed fee agreed in advance	£3,000	

What is missing from Gard & Co.'s service?

Nothing.

Gard & Co.'s probate services include all necessary correspondence to banks and similar organisations, as well as the probate registry. At the end of the administration we provide full estate accounts to the executors, showing exactly what assets are in the estate and how they are to be passed onto the beneficiaries.

There are no hidden costs and everything is done for you.

How can Gard & Co. provide such a good value for money service?

Gard & Co. have unparalleled expertise in the administration of estates and use the latest technology, making the process simple to understand and cost effective to our clients.

To find out more about the service or to get a quote please contact Jane or Robert or visit www.gardandco.com.

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