

How long does it take to obtain probate?

It's difficult to provide a general time frame as there are many things that can affect the process. On average it takes three to six months to get the necessary paperwork for the Probate Register but it can take longer – more than a year in some cases if the estate is complicated. Below is an outline of the process and, from our experience, how long it typically takes at each step.

Step one	Step two	Step three	Step four	Step five	Step six
<p>Once advisers are appointed, work begins to determine the value of the estate:</p> <p>Gather information from the Personal Representatives (PRs) (one – two months).</p> <p>Ascertain liabilities (one – two months).</p> <p>Obtain valuations (one – two months dependent on the assets and financial institutions involved).</p>	<p>When all of the relevant information is available:</p> <p>Prepare IHT Account (two – three weeks after all the information is available).</p> <p>Prepare tax returns to the date of death (three – four weeks after receipt of all the information).</p> <p>Prepare the probate application (two – three weeks).</p>	<p>Once the executors have approved the IHT Account and probate papers:</p> <p>Inheritance Tax Probate Summary submitted to HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC), together with the IHT Account (within one week of receipt of the approved papers from the PRs).</p>	<p>After HMRC issue the clearance certificate or 20 working days after HMRC receive the IHT Account (if earlier):</p> <p>Probate application submitted.</p> <p>Note: The Probate Registry advise not to send the application earlier as it may cause delays.</p>	<p>Obtaining the Grant of Representation (GOR):</p> <p>GOR issued (sixteen weeks).</p>	<p>When the GOR is received:</p> <p>Collect assets (three months – one year).</p> <p>Settle liabilities (three – four weeks after receipt of all the information).</p> <p>Prepare accounts (three weeks – one month from when the appropriate information is available).</p> <p>Register the estate on the Trust Register if appropriate (one – two weeks).</p> <p>Prepare estate tax return(s), if required (three – four weeks after receipt of all the information).</p> <p>Assent/transfer of assets to beneficiaries (two to three months – years).</p> <p><i>Typically, this step takes between three months to one year to complete when dealing with non-complex estates.</i></p>

Unless the estate is complex, typically, step one and two takes two – three months to complete.

Get in touch

For practical support with obtaining probate or administering an estate, get in touch with our experts to discuss your requirements and how we can help.

+44 (0)20 7556 1200 / enquiries@buzzacott.co.uk