

## **NEWSFLASH!**



### **Probate fees will be increasing from April 2019.**

It was announced on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019 that the change in Probate Fees is going to happen and happen as early as April of this year.

This legislation will change significantly the fee structure and many estates will be disadvantaged if they do not apply quickly for Probate. If you have lost a relative or friend recently but not yet got around to obtaining Probate then you need to be very aware of this.

Currently the Court fee (for Solicitors to apply) is £155.00 with 50p for every copy until April and then after April it will cost as follows:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2018/9780111174319/schedule/1>

#### **Here is an extract**

On an application for a grant or resealing of a grant where the assessed value of the estate:

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| (a) exceeds £50,000 but does not exceed £300,000;    | Fee - £250  |
| (b) exceeds £300,000 but does not exceed £500,000;   | Fee - £750  |
| (c) exceeds £500,000 but does not exceed £1,000,000; | Fee - 2,500 |

You will see the rise can be huge for many who have properties where the half share of the property may be considered. There is much discontent in the legal world about the rise of these fees being more than just an administration fee.

Many estates do fall within the banding of £300,000 to £500,000 which would mean the fee would be as great as £750.00 or worse, if your estate goes over £500,000 then the fee would be a whopping £2,500.00! That's a rise of £2,345.00!

My concern for those who have stalled in making an application (or even those who did not think Probate was needed on the first death) is that they will need to get the application in during March 2019 to preserve the current fee structure (giving them time to process the application) and that really is a tight timescale for many.

My word or warning to people is **DO NOT DELAY** otherwise it may cost you greatly.

Please give me and my firm a call if you are in doubt or need guidance about whether this affects you - 0191 389 5160

**Rebecca Harbron Gray    Head of Wills, Trusts and Probate**

