

DIRECT PUBLIC ACCESS FACTSHEET

Inheritance Act Cases

The Inheritance Act 1975 protects spouses (including former spouses), cohabitants, children and other dependents when a person dies without leaving sufficient money for the dependent's continued wellbeing. Our barristers can provide you with written advice on whether you can make a claim under this Act. Our barristers can also provide you with written advice when a person dies and you are a beneficiary of the estate but someone else makes a claim under the Act.

Timescales

Timescales for your written advice may vary depending on factors such as barristers' availability, the value and complexity of the deceased person's estate, your financial needs and those of any beneficiary of the estate. However, claims under the Act must be made within six months of the grant of probate, so as a guide your written advice will be available within two to four weeks where possible.

Fees

We may charge fixed fees, which means that we will charge you a set amount of money for the work. Below we provide estimates based upon the ranges of fixed fees and hourly rates for barristers in Thomas More Chambers, where the deceased person's estate is worth less than £300,000. All specified fees do not include VAT but are always stated to be for the fixed amount (or, where applicable, hourly rate) plus VAT (where applicable), e.g. £1,000 plus VAT.

If we charge fixed fees, these may vary depending on your needs – for example, your fees may be towards the higher end of the range if you need a more experienced barrister and/or you have a more complex case.

If you have a particularly complex case, your fees may also be higher than the estimates below.

We may also charge fees on an hourly rate basis. Such fees may be charged in relation to written advices.

The hourly rate will depend upon the complexity of your case and the level of experience of your barrister. The number of hours involved in relation to any piece of work will be determined by the amount of work involved (which will be influenced by factors such as the amount of paperwork relating to your case and the complexity of your case). The number of hours involved may exceed the upper end of the estimate of hours set out below.

Fixed fees

Stage of case

Range of fixed fees (estimates)

Written advice on making or defending a claim

£525 plus VAT to £5,250 plus VAT

Hourly rates

Stage of case

Range of hourly rates (estimates)

Written advice on making or defending a claim

£175 plus VAT to £350 plus VAT
Between approximately 3 and 15 hours

Contact us

All information is correct as of 30 August 2023 but fees are estimates only.

For a quotation please contact our clerks on 02074047000 or clerks@thomasmore.co.uk