

### **Pump Court Chambers**

We are one of the one of largest and longest established barristers' chambers in England and Wales. We recently celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> birthday! Based in London and Winchester and focusing on the South and South West, our breadth of expertise and collaborative approach enable us to provide clients with joined-up, practical solutions across multiple specialisms in law.

Our barristers and clerks are approachable, straightforward and focused on solving problems quickly and cost-effectively.

Our inheritance team is widely recognised as one of the best in the country. Our barristers are notable experts in their field, ably led by our silks (QCs) and leading juniors. Many of our barristers sit as part time judges.

### **Public Access – Inheritance Act Claims**

The Inheritance Act 1975 protects spouses (including former spouses), cohabitants, children and other dependants when a person dies without leaving sufficient money for the dependent's continued wellbeing. Our barristers can provide you with advice on whether you can make a claim under the Act and can represent you at mediation and in court proceedings to establish the claim. Our barristers can also provide you with written advice and representation when a person dies and you are a beneficiary and / or an executor of the estate, but someone else makes a claim under the Act.

Although this note is specific to claims under the Inheritance Act, our barristers provide advice and representation in a wide range of probate related claims, including claims challenging the validity of wills and administration claims.

Our barristers will guide you expertly through the court process, advising on pre-litigation negotiation and mediation and advising and representing you at the case management hearings and at any final hearing.

#### *Timescales*

Timescales for your case 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.

Claims under the Act must be made within six months of the grant of probate, so as a guide any written advice will be available within two to four weeks where possible.

As a guide, court proceedings for claims under the Inheritance Act tend to take six to eighteen months. This does not include possible appeals.

#### *Fees*



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In most cases we charge fixed fees for our work. This means that we will charge you a set amount of money for each piece of work we undertake. Below we have provided estimates based on the ranges of fixed fees for barristers at Pump Court Chambers.

All fees exclude VAT (where applicable). That means that it is likely that you will have to pay us VAT in addition to the fee at the current rate (presently 20%).

These fees 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. There may also be additional costs for any administrative work involved such as copying or where you agree to engage another person to assist with your case, such as a paralegal. On the first occasion that you instruct us there will be a fixed administration fee of £20 plus Vat.

When quoting fees it will only be to undertake that particular piece of work. There are likely to be many different pieces of work involved in a case such as representation at hearings, advising in conference and in writing and drafting documents. We will always quote separately for each piece of work. Please contact us so we can discuss fees individually with you.

Our barristers range in experience and expertise from QCs to newly qualified barristers. The fee levels set out below will reflect the relative experience of the barrister that you decide to instruct.

### Fixed Fees

Advice	Ranges of fixed fees (estimates)
Preliminary conference	£1,000 - £5,000
Written advice on your claim	£1,000 - £5,000
Preparation of case, including meetings with you and assistance with drafting of any Court documents	The fixed fee would be calculated at the hourly rate of the appointed Counsel multiplied by the number of hours work required.  The applicable range of hourly rates is £200 - £500 per hour.
1 Day mediation	The fixed fee would be calculated as above.
First Case Management hearing (first court hearing normally associated with exchanging of information and documents, provision of expert evidence and identifying the issues in the case)	The fixed fee would be calculated as above.
Further Case Management Hearing	The fixed fee would be calculated as above.
Court Hearing to discuss possible financial settlement	The fixed fee would be calculated as above.

Pump Court Chambers Ltd Registered Address: 3 Pump Court, London, EC4Y 7AJ Registered in England & Wales No: 8068472. Regulated by the Bar Standards Board.

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1 Day Final Hearing (if no financial settlement has been agreed)	The fixed fee would be calculated as above.
Part Heard day(s) of final hearing (per day, following day one)	The fixed fee would be calculated as above.

Please note that we cannot conduct litigation on your behalf. This means that we cannot (for example) issue applications for you at court, pay issue fees, instruct experts or send documents to the court or anyone else on your behalf. In addition, our barristers cannot correspond with other lawyers or agencies on your behalf. We can, however, advise you on how to undertake these procedures and assist you with the contents of any documents or correspondence which you can then send out in your own name.

***Please Contact Us***

All information is correct as of January 2020 but fees are estimates only. For a fixed fee quotation please contact our clerks on 020-7353-0711 or [clerks@pumpcourtchambers.com](mailto:clerks@pumpcourtchambers.com).

Please also contact our clerks if your case involves a different probate related claim.

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