

Hillier Hopkins Legal & Accounting Limited  
Part of the Hillier Hopkins family

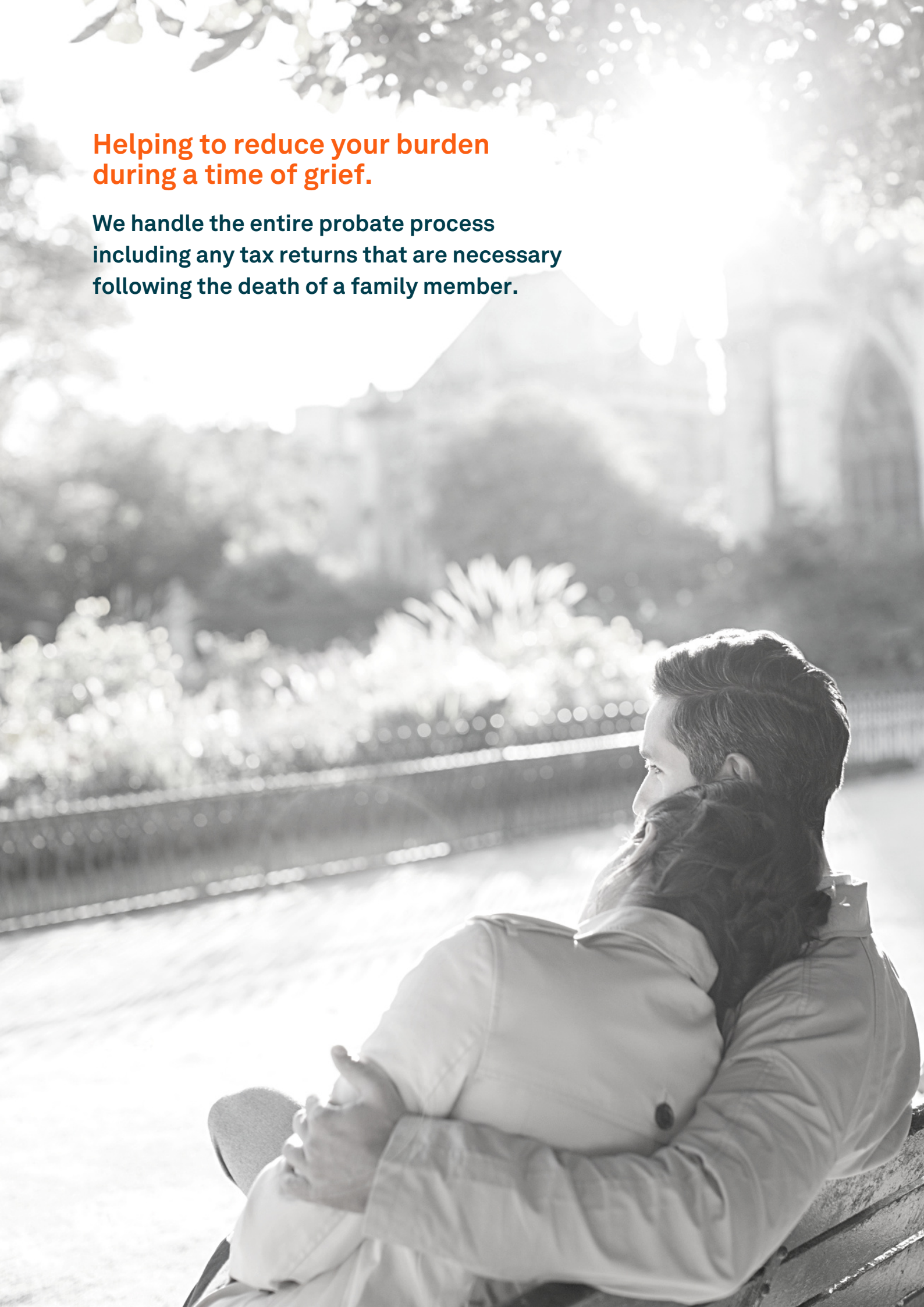


## Probate Services

Peace of mind through difficult times



**“friendly expertise”**

A man with a beard, wearing a light-colored trench coat, is sitting on a wooden bench in a park. He is looking out over a body of water, with a church visible in the background. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the man in the foreground.

## Helping to reduce your burden during a time of grief.

We handle the entire probate process including any tax returns that are necessary following the death of a family member.

## Probate services

Probate is the legal process you need to go through to deal with someone's property, money or possessions when they die. It can feel daunting to face the probate process following the death of a loved one. You may feel overwhelmed with the amount of work that's required at what can be a sad and distressing time for the family.

Our probate specialists offer comfort by taking care of the whole procedure from start to finish, handling all of the administration and taxes in a sensitive and efficient manner.

Throughout the entire process, we are on hand to offer advice and help guide you through with ease.

### Why choose an accountant to deal with probate?

Accountants and tax advisers are uniquely placed to be able to deal effectively with the whole probate process as long as they are licenced to do so.

Our understanding of complex financial arrangements, family finances and trusts along with our inheritance tax expertise mean that we can minimise the tax impact on the estate and its beneficiaries.

Where we advise families over many years, our thorough understanding of their financial arrangements removes much of the work that another probate adviser would have to do, and makes for a much more efficient and smooth process.

### What does the probate process entail?

- Notifying all of the financial institutions where the deceased held assets.
- Taking care of the legal paperwork.
- Valuation of all the money, property and possessions in the estate.
- Preparing accounts for the estate and calculating any estate taxes that are due.
- Calculating inheritance tax and reliefs and submitting IHT returns.
- Applying for grant of probate in order to administer the estate.
- Acting as executor of the will if you require.
- Distributing assets to beneficiaries according to the will.

We can take on some or all of this process depending on whether executors named in the will wish to deal with some aspects themselves.

### What if there is no will?

Unfortunately, there are occasions when a person dies without a will. This can sometimes be when the death has occurred suddenly or unexpectedly. If you are the closest living relative, our team can handle the probate process on your behalf, taking the strain and giving you peace of mind that everything is dealt with in accordance with the law.

## How long does it take?

Preparing IHT returns and submitting the probate application typically takes around 4 weeks, however, in our experience it can take a further 3 months for the courts and HMRC to process these.

Contacting financial institutions and obtaining valuations can be a fairly lengthy process and can add up to 3 months to the process.

The process of collecting and disposing of (or selling) assets and distributing these to beneficiaries is more difficult to predict, particularly if there is a property sale involved which can take many months. However, we would typically say between 3 to 6 months for this stage of the process.

## What does it cost?

Charges for probate services can vary across advisers, sometimes probate providers will charge a percentage which can be up to 5% of the value of the estate. At HH Accounting & Tax Services Limited, we will quote a fixed fee for our services and agree these with you before we start any work.

As each client has different requirements it is difficult to provide an accurate price for this service. The example opposite outlines some typical scenarios with estimated fees and time scales. Please contact us for an accurate quote for your particular situation.

## Example probate costs

This is based on an estate worth approximately £2m with fairly straightforward arrangements.

- £3,500 +VAT Probate application and inheritance tax service (Preparing and submitting the IHT return and probate application on your behalf)
- £2,500 +VAT Estate valuation service (Contacting financial institutions on your behalf and obtaining valuations of property, shares and possessions)
- £3,000 +VAT Estate administration service (Collect and realise assets, prepare estate accounts and tax returns, settle creditors and pay beneficiaries)
- Any probate office fees incurred by us will be recoverable from the estate. For more information on probate office fees visit the government's probate office page <https://www.gov.uk/applying-for-probate/fees>

To receive an accurate quote for your particular situation, please contact us on 0330 024 3200 or email [hi@hhllp.co.uk](mailto:hi@hhllp.co.uk).

## Our probate experts



### **Ben Sherwood**

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Ben has over 30 years experience in financial services helping individuals and trustees make informed decisions regarding the management of their wealth.



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Meeten is the firm's Global Head of Tax and manages the business and tax affairs of a wide variety of clients.



### **Debbie Wilson**

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Debbie is an experienced private client adviser with a particular focus on wealth management, wealth preservation and tax efficient planning.

**Hillier Hopkins Legal & Accounting  
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family**

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Probate services are carried out by Hillier Hopkins Legal & Accounting Limited, which is registered as a Limited Company in England & Wales No. 05148576. Registered office: Radius House, 51 Clarendon Road, Watford, WD17 1HP.

Licensed to carry out the reserved legal activity of non-contentious probate in England and Wales by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Details of our probate accreditation can be viewed at <https://www.icaew.com/regulation/Probate-services/Information-for-consumers/ICAEW-probate-register> under reference number C001398234.