

Thompson, Thompson & Glanville, PLC

Tracy M. Thompson

Fees For Elder Law, Estate Planning, Medicaid Planning and Probate

LEGAL FEES Q & A:

Do you charge for the first meeting at Thompson, Thompson & Glanville?

No, not for elder law, estate planning, medicaid planning or probate matters.

How much will the legal work cost me?

At the initial consultation, I will discuss your situation and go over your options. With my help, you can then choose the best course of action for you. I will then provide you with a fee agreement describing my services and the fee that will be charged. This will either be a one-time “flat fee” for all of the legal work, or an hourly fee. If the scope of work changes, or if you require additional work that was not discussed in the initial consultation, we will prepare a new fee agreement for your signature prior to proceeding with additional legal services. The key here is “no surprises.”

We do not charge for incidentals, i.e. local postage, photocopying or telephone expenses. However, we will charge for extensive photocopying services, large mailings, mileage or other extra expenses.

What types of work are invoiced through flat fees and hourly fees?

For most estate planning matters (wills, powers of attorney, revocable living trusts, special needs trusts, and deeds) we charge a **flat fee**. This work normally has a clear beginning and ending point, and we can estimate the amount of time it will take to complete the work. It is my experience that most clients prefer knowing in advance how much they will be billed. Fee agreements such as these allow for our clients to schedule as many appointments as may be necessary to complete the work to their satisfaction without being concerned about fees accruing.

For probate, elder law, and medicaid planning matters I charge a **retainer** against which I **bill hourly** for the legal work. The amount of the retainer depends upon how complicated I think the case will be. Most probate cases cost about \$1,500 in legal fees, and most medicaid cases cost a little more.

Are you willing to negotiate a flat fee agreement?

We are happy to negotiate a flat fee agreement that represents the extent of the legal work our clients require.

What is your fee structure?

Hourly Fees:

Each staff member involved in a given matter keeps track of his or her time which is billed at a predetermined rate. The normal hourly rates charged by each staff member are:

Tracy M. Thompson, Attorney/Managing Partner	\$200.00/hour
Ryan T. Glanville, Attorney/Partner	\$175.00/hour
Laura H. Thompson, Attorney/Partner	\$150.00/hour
Deborah K. Sherman, Paralegal	\$ 90.00/hour

Work is billed in increments of .1 hour, with a minimum of .2 hour for each activity.

Flat Fees:

Some activities are charged at a flat fee such as wills, powers of attorney, deeds. Will Preparation and Estate Plans below include Powers of Attorneys and Deeds as may be required. Document recording fees (where necessary) by the Register of Deeds are charged as costs in addition to the flat fees listed below.

Will Preparation - simple will package	\$500 to \$600
Will Preparation - with provision for minors	\$500 to \$800
Will Preparation - with estate tax planning	\$1,000 to \$2,000
Estate Plan Trust without estate tax planning	\$1,500 to \$2,000
Estate Plan Trust with estate tax planning	\$2,000 to \$4,000