

## Estate expenses *explained*

When administering a deceased estate, various expenses may be charged over and above the liabilities of the deceased.

**\*Master's fees in estates where the deceased passed away after 1 January 2018:**

- Value of the estate is less than R250 000: No Master's fees payable.
- Value of the estate is between R250 000 and R400 000: R600 Master's fee payable.
- Value of the estate exceeds R400 000: R600 + R200 for each completed R100 000 over R400 000 with a maximum of R7 000 Master's fees payable.

EXPENSE TYPE	FEE	VAT	COMMENTS
Executor's fee	3.5%	15%	This is a prescribed tariff fee calculated on the gross asset value. In the case of a marriage in community of property, it is calculated on the value of the joint estate.
Executor's collection	6%	15%	This is calculated on income accrued and collected after the death of the deceased. For example, interest earned.
Master's fee	R600 - R7 000	Incl.	This administrative fee is payable to the Master and depends on the value of the estate.*
Advertisement costs	R2 280	15%	Four estate advertisements must be placed in a local newspaper and in the Government Gazette. The cost is based on the cost to advertise in <i>Business Day</i> .
Postage & petties	From R800	15%	This fee varies depending on the value of the estate.
Bond of security	0.5% of gross estate asset value		Calculated per annum until the estate is finalised.
Sworn valuation fee		15%	The tariff is regulated as per the Government Gazette and is based on the value of the items appraised in a dutiable estate (i.e. estates valued in excess of R3.5 million).
Transfer costs (on the sale of immovable property)	Per the conveyancing tariff	15%	Transfer costs include the conveyancer's fee, which is calculated on a sliding scale and based on the value of the property, as per the Guideline of Fees published by the Law Society of South Africa.
Bond cancellation costs	Ave. of R5 800	Incl.	Bond cancellation costs include the conveyancer's fee as per the Guideline of Fees published by the Law Society of South Africa.
Capital gains tax (CGT)			This is a tax payable to SARS on the profit (gains) from the sale or transfer of any secondary properties and other assets.
Estate duty			This tax is payable to SARS if your net estate is valued at more than R3.5 million. It is levied at 20% of the dutiable amount of the estate up to R30 million, or 25% if over R30 million.
Tax consultant fee	Ave. of R2 000 per return	Incl.	Pre and post-death tax returns are submitted by the executor to SARS.
Estate agent commission	3% - 7.5%	15%	Payable when the immovable property is sold by an estate agent.
Legal costs	Ave. of R2 500 p/h	15%	Costs are charged when the estate is involved in legal action. The tariff per hour is as per the agreement with a litigation attorney.
Municipal rates & services	Monthly account		The Municipality requires payment of all arrears and current rates and 2 months' advance rates before issuing a rates clearance certificate.
Trust costs			Costs in respect of a testamentary trust: - Inception fee: 1% of capital plus VAT - Annual management fee: 0.75% of capital plus VAT - Annual income fee: 7% plus VAT - Termination fee: 1.5% of capital plus VAT

**Let us connect you.**

*STBB offers access to a powerful team of attorneys, conveyancers and notaries, who are specialists in numerous fields of the law.*

Commercial Law  
Conveyancing  
Development Law  
Labour Law  
Estates  
Family Law  
Litigation  
Personal Injury & Third Party Claims