

Making a Will

Why should you make a Will?



Having a Will is the only way to ensure your wishes are carried out after your death. You may assume you know who will inherit your Estate if you die intestate (without a Will) but this may not be right and your spouse or civil partner may not receive as much as you would have intended them to and if you have no living relatives then the Crown could end up inheriting it. If you have a partner but are not married, the intestacy laws dictate that you are treated as a single person and your surviving partner may get nothing. If you have remarried, your Will can ensure provision is made for your children from any previous relationship.

If you have children you need to think about who you would trust to take care of them in the event of your death and this can be done by appointing legal guardians in your Will. If you die without making such provision the Courts will appoint guardians and may choose people to care for your children who you would not have wanted.

You must obtain the grant of probate before assets can be distributed. This process takes on average nine months but if you die intestate it could take a lot longer for your beneficiaries to inherit.

A carefully planned Will can help reduce the amount of Inheritance Tax payable on your Estate.

Disputes over Wills can cause family disagreements which may require a Solicitor to resolve them. By making your Will you can alleviate any doubt of what your wishes are. Although you should be aware that anyone dependent upon you has a potential claim against your Estate if no provision is made for them.

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