



Advantages of Writing a Will

Making a Will is the only way to ensure that your possessions will be distributed according to your own wishes after your death.

If you die without a will there are certain rules which dictate how your assets will be allocated.

Couples who are not married do not automatically inherit from each other. The death of one partner may create serious financial problems for the survivor.

If you have children your will should name a guardian and leave instructions on how they should provide care.

It may be possible within your will to reduce the amount of inheritance tax paid on your estate or plan for the cost of nursing care for the survivor.

If your circumstances have changed it is important to ensure that you make a will or change an existing will to provide for your current wishes.

Making a will is one of the most important things we can do - after all it determines how our most personal possessions and hard-earned savings will be shared among close family and friends.



Power of Attorney

You may wish to consider granting a power of attorney at the same time as writing a will.

Many people make the mistake of assuming that Executors will automatically be granted a power of attorney should an accident or illness lead to a serious and permanent mental or physical impairment. However, a power of attorney must be drawn up separately.

Living Will

You may also wish to consider leaving an advance directive regarding how you wish to be dealt with should you lose capacity and have no reasonable prospect of recovery

Contact Us

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What should be included in a will

Your will should include:

- How much money and what property and possessions you have and who should receive them
- Who should look after any children under 16 years and what provisions should you make for older children
- Who is going to sort out your estate and carry out your wishes as set out in your will. These people are known as your Executors
- Your funeral arrangements
- Do you want to leave any money to charity

Legal Rights

Whatever you say in your will, a widow, widower, civil partner or child always has a claim for Legal Rights against your estate. You cannot fully exclude them. Legal Rights are fixed rights to a proportion of your moveable estate e.g. money, cars, shares, personal effects

Inheritance Tax Planning

This is never an easy subject to discuss with your family but if your estate is more than the IHT threshold (currently £325,000) you will leave an inheritance tax bill behind. What's more, your family could be forced to pay this before they receive your estate.

Simple steps can be taken to minimize your tax liability.