

## What is a Will?

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A Will is a legal document which you draw up during your lifetime to express your wishes as to how your property and financial affairs are to be dealt with on your death.

## Why should I make a Will?

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Making a Will ensures that you get to decide who will inherit your property, money and other personal possessions on your death. Having a Will in place helps to simplify the process of sorting everything out after your death and can remove some of the stress and worry from your family at a difficult time.

A well drafted Will can also be used to minimise any liability to inheritance tax and can help to ensure that the people that you want to look after are financially protected. In addition, a Will can ensure that your children are provided for and you can include the appointment of a guardian to look after them if you are no longer here. You can also make sure that your partner will receive what you want them to have, which is essential if you are not married to each other.

## What happens if I die without making a Will?

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If you die without making a Will, the rules of intestacy would apply which dictate who will inherit your estate - the people who you wish to benefit may not be entitled to anything under the law. Even if you are living with your partner, they are not entitled to inherit anything from your estate under the intestacy rules. There are also financial limits on the amount a spouse will inherit in certain circumstances as well.

## What if I already have a Will in place?

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It is advisable to review your Will every 5 years or so to make sure that it remains current. A major life change such as marriage, divorce, a death in the family or the birth of a new family member could invalidate all or part of your Will and you should consider updating it at this time. Your Will may also need to be reviewed if your circumstances have changed so that legacies included in your Will are now too large or too small or you have disposed of items you have specifically given away in the Will.

## What should I do now?

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If you would like our help with making or updating a Will, please contact:

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