

MAKING A WILL

Charges start from only £80 including Vat!

WHY SHOULD I MAKE A WILL?

Preparing and signing a Will allows you to choose who will benefit from your estate after your death. It enables you to select the persons who will be dealing with your affairs. These are called your “executors”. This will help to make things easier for those closest to you at a difficult time. It is common to choose two executors, perhaps a family member and a solicitor or friend.

WHAT IF I DON'T MAKE A WILL?

If you do not make a Will the law decides who should benefit from your assets (your “estate”). Generally your property will pass to your next of kin in an order laid down by law. This may have some unexpected consequences. Even if you are married your wife or husband may not automatically get everything. If you are unmarried and in a relationship your partner may receive nothing.

BUT WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO LEAVE?

You should add up the value of your assets. Don't forget to include your home, savings, valuables, death in service benefits, insurance policies etc. Your mortgage may be paid off by insurance on your death. Even if your estate is small a Will enables you to decide what will happen to your affairs and enables you to, for example, benefit a charity. You can also appoint a Guardian for your children.

HOW DO I GO ABOUT MAKING A WILL?

You should consider your affairs, what assets you have and who you would wish to benefit. You should then contact us to arrange an appointment with one of our Property Team.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

We will give you a quote. Unless your Will is unusual or complex we will be able to quote you a fixed fee. If your Will is complicated we will charge you on a time basis and give you an estimate at the outset. We can also advise about inheritance tax and how it will affect your estate. In some cases you may be entitled to free legal advice which will cover the cost of your will, for example, if you are eligible for Legal Help and you have children living with you but not the other parent or if you are over 70. The basic fee is currently £80 this does not cover home visits or tax planning

HOW LONG WILL MAKING A WILL TAKE?

An appointment can be arranged quickly. We can visit you if you are unable to visit our office. We will prepare a draft Will for you to approve. Once you are happy with the draft we will prepare a final copy for you to sign.

WHAT IF I ALREADY HAVE A WILL?

Even if you already have a will you may need to make a new one for example because of:

- Moving house
- Remarriage
- Divorce
- Birth of a child
- Death of a family member
- Change in financial circumstances
- Child reaching 18 years (so that guardians may not be necessary)
- Living with a partner

Minor changes can be made by an additional document known as a “codicil”, otherwise it is better to make a new Will.

KEEPING YOUR WILL SAFE

We can arrange to store your will safely free of charge. Problems may be caused if your will cannot be found and it is best to keep your Will where it cannot be lost or destroyed.

OTHER MATTERS

Why not talk to us about other ways we may be able to help you:

- Winding up estates
- Powers of attorney
- Living wills
- Tax planning
- Property transfers and gifts

You may like to ask us for advice about enduring powers of attorney when you make a Will. A power of attorney is a way of giving another person power over your assets and may be drafted so as to only come into effect in the event of physical or mental incapacity. They are useful and often a cheap means of determining that someone can deal with your affairs in the event of, for example, serious ill health. We can also help in situations where you or a family member has lost the capacity to deal with property or affairs. We can also advise on Living Wills, which deal with medical treatment.

The family department are:

Mary Shaw	Partner
Clare Routledge	Partner
Lesley Monkhouse	Partner
Elsbeth Thomson	Partner
Lucy McGivern	Solicitor
Jane Wilkinson	Solicitor
Helen Holmes	Solicitor
Nicky Hunter	Solicitor
Joanne Hall	Solicitor
Janine Calkin	Legal Assistant
Amber McIlwain	Legal Assistant
Paula Harris	Legal Assistant
Amy Coates	Legal Assistant
Laura Croft	Legal Assistant
Emma Ferguson	Legal Assistant

David Gray Solicitors



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David Gray Solicitors



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Justice is not **black**
or

white It's Gray