

WILLS & PROBATE

Your will makes it easier for others

LET'S face it, no-one likes to think about dying, and the last thing anyone wants to do is prepare for when they've gone, but by making a will you can save your family a lot of extra heartache.

If you die before you've made a will, your assets may be distributed according to the law rather than the way you would have wanted - and your loved ones may have to spend months sorting out a

complicated financial and legal situation.

By making a will, you can happily leave your property, money and possessions to whoever you want. It is undoubtedly the best way to make sure your estate is passed on to family, friends, or charities, as you see fit.

Of course, there are other reasons for making a will, including some which you may not have thought of.

For instance, if you

have young children, you may want to make arrangements for their upbringing in the event of your death. You can choose a legal guardian to be responsible for them - but make sure you get the person's permission first before nominating them.

If you don't get round to doing this, it would be up to your surviving relatives to decide who would look after your children and they could end up being brought

up by someone you would not have picked.

By drawing up a will, your partner may benefit. If you're an unmarried couple, you can make sure your partner is provided for, or if you are divorced, you can decide if you want to leave anything to your former partner.

You can also ensure your will is tax efficient and that, if you've got a lot to leave, you don't pay more Inheritance Tax than necessary.

When you make a will, you should appoint an executor to carry out your wishes. Often people choose their spouse, civil partner or children as executors and it is common to have two people.

Make sure that your proposed executors are up for this role before naming them in your will, as it can involve a considerable amount of administration.

Probate is a term commonly used when talking about applying for the right to deal with a deceased person's affairs. However, different terms are used depending on whether or not the deceased person

left a will or died intestate without one. If there is no will, a close relative of the deceased can apply to the probate registry to deal with the estate.

You can draw up your own will and pre-printed forms are available, but it is generally advisable to use a solicitor to make a will, as there are legal formalities you need to follow to make sure it is valid.

It is wise to go to a solicitor, particularly if your personal circumstances are complicated, if you intend to leave significant sums to people other than those who might expect to inherit, or if you own

your own business.

Ask family or friends for personal recommendations, or contact the Law Society or the Citizens' Advice Bureau for a list of local solicitors.

The cost of writing up a will varies depending on how complicated your affairs may be, so ask for prices at the outset. It is worth giving some thought to what you want to say in your will before seeing a solicitor and perhaps taking a list of everything you own and anything you owe. If you have particular views about your funeral, you can include the information in the will itself.

Once you have made your will, keep it in a safe place. If a solicitor makes your will, they will normally keep the original and send you a copy, or you could lodge it with your bank.

You should review your will after any major change in your life, such as getting married, having children, getting divorced, or moving home. Changes are made by codicil or supplements, or by making a new will.

For further information about drawing up a will, go to www.direct.gov.uk/en/Government/citizensandrights/Death/Preparation/index.htm

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We have expanded our wills & probate department following our recent merger bringing together experienced solicitors John Coffee, Sabrina Maini, Peter Ward and Anne Ridley amongst others.

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- Elderly client issues including: powers of attorney, court of protection and deputyship matters, equity release plans and long term care planning.
- Home visits are offered where required.
- Appointments can be arranged at any of our branch offices below.
- Friendly professional service.

Call 0116 253 8021 for further information or to arrange an appointment.

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Making your will or need help with probate?

Ring Quorn Wills
01509 413 214



It's NEVER too early to make your will but often TOO LATE

An hour of your time now could prevent years of grief and considerable expense for your loved ones

Patricia Sanders MIPW
Inheritance Tax Specialist & Will Writer
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If you can no longer make decisions for yourself:-
Do you want someone looking after your house and money who you haven't chosen?

When you die :-
Do you want your house and money to go to people you choose, or people chosen for you by the Government?

We Can Help You Protect Your House & Money

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Wilson Browne has one of the largest specialist Private Client Departments in the East Midlands. We are dedicated to helping you keep what is yours - for you and for your family.

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