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**Business Services**

- > Company Commercial
- > Commercial Property
- > Employment
- > Commercial Litigation

**Individual Services**

- > Family, Children and Separation
- > Wills, Trusts and Probate
- > Buying and Selling a Home
- > Employment
- > Dispute Resolution

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**Making a Will**

## The importance of making a will

Whatever stage in life you have reached there is almost always a good reason to make a will; this can be to ensure your assets pass to people or organisations of your choice, or it may be to ensure that proper arrangements are made for the care of young children. A well-drafted will gives you choice, control and peace of mind.

Wills are not just lists dictating where money should go, they are tools to protect you and your family in the future. A will can appoint guardians for your children and provide support and assistance to your family.

A will should be tailored to provide the most appropriate framework for the gift of your assets. A will also allows you to choose who will look after your affairs.

In order to ensure your wishes are followed, it is important that your will is drafted properly and the many years of experience of the lawyers in our Private Client team will help you achieve this.

### What happens if you don't have a will?

Under the current law, without a will, your estate will be distributed according to a legal formula based on your family circumstances. If you are married with children, then your estate will pass to your spouse and children in shares determined by the value of your estate. The surviving spouse does not necessarily inherit everything. If you are unmarried (regardless of whether or not you cohabit) your estate will be divided between those relatives who are deemed closest to you under statutory rules. These people may not be who you would choose to benefit and your unmarried partner will not be entitled to anything from your estate.

### Why should you instruct a solicitor to draft your will?

For a will to be valid and effective, it must be clearly drafted and it must conform with the law. Those who make wills without expert guidance often fail to meet the required standard, and the problems which follow can be difficult and expensive to resolve. Even worse, the will may be wholly invalid and this, too, may also lead to a dispute. The cost of resolving such disputes generally far exceeds the cost of a professionally prepared will.

Wills can also be as simple or complicated as your wishes dictate. You may wish to leave a sum of money for the benefit of a child, allow your partner to live in your home but pass the ownership of the house to your children or have beneficiaries with special needs. In each of these cases, and in countless others, expert guidance and drafting will help ensure your wishes are correctly expressed, and meet the legal requirements for the arrangement you intend. A will can also enable you to distribute your estate in a tax efficient manner.

There are many organisations offering will writing services. We believe, as solicitors, we are best placed to advise, being wholly independent with qualified, experienced staff and rigorous oversight of all that we do to ensure that the highest possible standards are maintained. A professionally drawn will is much less likely to be successfully challenged. Simple wills can be achieved on a fixed fee basis, more complex wills are charged on a time-spent basis. Our policy of transparency means that you will be advised of the likely costs before we commence work on your behalf.

### Find out more

For more information please contact our Private Client Team who will be happy to assist you.

