


# MAKING A WILL

## Protecting the people and things that matter to you

Making a Will is one of the most important things you can do to make sure your wishes are known and your loved ones are looked after.

A professionally prepared Will can give you peace of mind that, after your death, your estate will be dealt with according to your wishes.

### Why should I make a Will?

Without a Will, your estate may not pass to the people you would have chosen. The law determines who inherits from you, and this may not reflect your wishes.

A Will allows you to:

- Decide who should inherit your money, property and possessions.
- Choose who you would like to act as your Executors.
- Make specific gifts to family members, friends or charities.
- Make arrangements for children or other dependants.
- Consider who should look after your children if they are under 18.
- Provide for a partner or other loved ones.
- Help reduce uncertainty and potential disputes after your death.

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

If you die without a valid Will, you are said to have died "**intestate**."

The intestacy rules determine who receives your estate. Depending on your circumstances, this may mean that someone you would have wanted to benefit receives nothing, while someone else inherits instead.

This can be particularly important if you:

- Live with a partner but are not married or in a civil partnership.
- Have children from a previous relationship.
- Have stepchildren whom you wish to provide for.
- Own a property with someone else.
- Have a complex family situation.
- Want to leave something to friends or charities.

### Is making a Will expensive?

The cost of making a Will varies depending on your circumstances and the complexity of your wishes.

A straightforward Will may be relatively simple, but additional advice may be needed where there are trusts, business interests, overseas assets, tax considerations or complicated family circumstances.

We will explain our fees before carrying out the work.



## Who should I appoint as my Executors?

Your Executors are the people responsible for dealing with your estate after your death.

They may need to:

- Register your death and arrange the funeral.
- Identify and value your assets and debts.
- Deal with banks, insurers and other organisations.
- Pay debts and any tax due.
- Apply for a Grant of Probate where required.
- Distribute your estate to the beneficiaries named in your Will.

You should choose people you trust and who are likely to be able to deal with these responsibilities.

## What about my children?

If you have children under 18, your Will can include provisions for their care and financial needs.

You can name people you would wish to act as guardians for your children if appropriate. You can also make arrangements for money inherited by children to be managed on their behalf until they reach a specified age.

We can discuss the options with you and help you decide what is appropriate for your family.

## Can I leave gifts to family, friends or charities?

Yes. Your Will can include specific gifts, such as: "I leave £5,000 to my niece…" or particular possessions, property or charitable donations.

It is important to consider what should happen if a person you have named dies before you, and we can advise you about the appropriate wording.

## What about my home?

Your home may be one of the most valuable assets you own, so it is important to consider how it is owned and what you want to happen to it.

The effect of your Will can depend upon whether you own your property as **joint tenants** or **tenants in common**, among other factors.

We can explain the implications and help you make appropriate arrangements.

## When should I review my Will?

You should review your Will regularly and particularly after a major change in your circumstances, such as:

- Marriage or entering into a civil partnership.
- Divorce or separation.
- The birth or adoption of a child.
- The death of a beneficiary or Executor.
- Buying or selling property.
- Significant changes in your finances.
- Starting or selling a business.
- Moving abroad or acquiring overseas assets.
- Changes in your family circumstances.

**Important:** Marriage or entering into a civil partnership will automatically revoke your existing Will unless the Will has been made in contemplation of that marriage so you should seek legal advice if your circumstances change.

## Don't leave it until it's too late

No one knows what the future holds. Making a Will is not just about what happens to your money — it is about making sure the people you care about are protected and your wishes are understood.

Our experienced team can talk you through your options and help you put a Will in place that reflects your circumstances and wishes.



## CONTACT US

T: 0330 300 1103 / 0800 9555 094
E: enquiries@jordanssolicitors.co.uk
W: www.jordanssolicitors.co.uk

We also offer a free, online, 30 minute initial consultation.