

## HELP SHEET: WILLS

We strongly advise all residents to make a Will if they want to leave any of their money or possessions to their spouse, partner or to friends or relatives. Writing a Will enables you to specify what you want done with your money and possessions when you die. If you die without making a Will, the disposal of your possessions will be in accordance with regulations laid down in law. This may not be as you would have wished.

Your estate manager can tell you where you can obtain advice about making a Will.

- General advice on making Wills is usually available from your local Citizens Advice Bureau or is available online at [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)
- Age UK (formerly Help the Aged and Age Concern) provide a very useful fact sheet entitled '[Making a Will](#)' which can be downloaded from their website at [www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk) or obtained by phoning 0800 169 6565
- Alternatively you may want to consult a solicitor.

### Seeking legal advice

In many cases, it will be wise to consult a solicitor or other qualified adviser about making a Will. This is particularly so if your wishes are complex or if the value of your money and possessions is above the level for inheritance tax. Your adviser may be prepared to visit you in your own home if you are unable to go out.

The cost of making a Will varies according to how complex it is but sometimes special rates are offered for people on low incomes. Your estate manager should be able to provide you with contact details for local solicitors or you can obtain a list from your local Citizens Advice Bureau. Solicitors which specialise in Family Law or Wills and Probate are most likely to be able to help you.

## Estate manager involvement

Your estate manager should have no involvement in any resident's Will arrangements other than to provide information about where you can obtain advice.

Estate managers are not allowed to:

- Act as an Executor to a Will
- Witness a Will
- Provide advice on how you should arrange your affairs or recommend a particular solicitor or adviser.
- Keep copies of a Will

Further information:

Age UK [www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk) Advice line: 0800 169 6565

Citizens Advice Bureau [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

Directgov (government information website) [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

Law Society (Find a Solicitor)

<http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/choosingandusing/findasolicitor.law>