
Wills

Your will lets you decide what happens to your money, possessions and property when you die (your “estate”). If you die without making a Will, the disposal of your possessions will be completed following legal rules. This may not be as you would have wished.

Making a will also means that your loved ones will know what you wanted so any disputes can be avoided.

Your estate manager can tell you where you can obtain advice about making a Will. The following contacts may also be useful:

- General advice guides on making Wills are usually available from your local Citizens Advice Bureau or are available online at www.adviceguide.org.uk
- Age UK provides a useful fact sheet entitled [‘Making a Will’](#) which can be downloaded from their website, listened to or viewed in video form at www.ageuk.org.uk or obtained by phoning 0800 169 6565
- Alternatively you may want to consult a solicitor

Seeking Legal Advice

It is possible to write a Will yourself, but we would strongly advise you to get legal advice from the Citizen's Advice Bureau or a solicitor, especially 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.

There are formal rules about making a valid Will so if you decide not to use a solicitor, you will still need to follow these, for example getting your Will formally signed and witnessed.

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.

If you decide to use a Will-Writer, you may wish to consider using one from The Institute of Professional Will-Writers.

The Role of the Estate Manager

Although your Estate Manager can help signpost you to advice about writing your will, they cannot have any involvement in

writing or arranging your will. 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

Reviewing Your Will

You should try and review your Will about every 5 years or after every major life change. This can help avoid any confusion or disputes.

Further information

Age UK

www.ageuk.org.uk

Advice line: 0800 169 6565

Citizens Advice Bureau

www.adviceguide.org.uk

Gov.UK (government information website)

www.gov.uk

Law Society (Find a Solicitor)

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