

PERSONAL LAW

Making Your Will



A legally valid Will ensures that your money and possessions go to the people and causes that matter to you. Have you written yours?

Make sure your wishes are carried out

A Will is one of the most important documents you will ever make, yet over 50% of adults in the UK still do not have a Will. We live in a world of increasingly complex family relationships. If you die without leaving a Will your partner, spouse or other close family members do not automatically benefit from your estate. If you have no surviving family your estate will pass to the Crown. Many people are concerned about the costs involved in making a Will and choose to avoid using a professional. But a simple mistake in a DIY Will or one prepared by uninsured and untrained Will writers can often mean paying a much higher price and leave loved ones and assets unprotected.

Girlings' Private Client team is recognised in the Legal 500 as a leading Firm. Girlings is also recognised as a Dementia Friendly business.



Book an appointment now with one of our friendly advisors

Protect what matters

If you die without a Will your money, property and possessions will be shared out according to the law instead of in accordance with your wishes. This can be devastating for those you leave behind:

Your spouse: If you die without leaving a Will, depending on the size of your estate and whether you have children, your spouse may not inherit all your assets.

Your partner: Without a Will if you are not married to your partner, regardless of how long you have lived with them, they will not be entitled to anything from your estate.

If you and your partner own your property as joint tenants and neither of you make Wills, then your property will pass solely to the beneficiaries of the second of you to die, not necessarily to members of your own family.

Your children: It is important to appoint guardians to look after your children if you should die whilst they are minors. Step-children will receive no benefit unless provided for under your Will.

Your assets: Your Will can be drafted to reduce Inheritance Tax. It can also include trusts to protect your assets for your children and against future residential care costs. Trusts are often included in Wills where there are second relationships to ensure your children from your first marriage also benefit from your estate.

Your business: Without a Will the people dealing with your estate will need to apply for a Grant of Letters of Administration. Until they have this they will have no authority to run your business - possibly affecting important business decisions.

Making your Will

Making a Will is straightforward and one of our experienced legal advisors will be able to guide you through the process. This will include advice on how to appoint an executor to administer your estate upon your death to ensure that your wishes are carried out. You can also leave instructions with regard to your funeral arrangements.



Head of Department, Lesley Rushton is also a fully accredited member of the Solicitors for the Elderly (SFE), a select and specialist national group of lawyers who support and make a difference to older and vulnerable people.

Changing your Will

Circumstances change and it is important to remember that you can amend your Will at any time. Ask us for details.

Keeping your Will safe

Your Will should be stored in a safe place and we recommend that our clients use our secure storage facilities for which there is no charge.

Contact an office near you – see overleaf for details.

Girlings Solicitors for expert legal advice:

Business Law

- Commercial Property
- Corporate & Commercial
- Insolvency & Restructuring
- Employment Law
- Dispute Resolution
- Debt Recovery

Personal Law

- Residential Property
- Wills, LPAs, Estates & Inheritance Tax
- Family Law: Children, Divorce & Separation
- Personal Injury/Clinical Negligence*
- Notarial Services
- Independent Financial Advice

An office near you

Contact one of our offices who will be happy to help or email us via our website:

■ Ashford Office

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■ Canterbury Office

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