

Making a Will

It's believed that nearly two thirds of the UK population do not have a Will. If you die without leaving a valid Will, your estate will pass in accordance with the rules of intestacy.

Why does this matter and why do I need one?

The rules of intestacy set out the order of inheritance as follows in this order:

- Married couples and civil partners
- Children
- Grandchildren
- Parents
- Siblings
- Half siblings
- Grandparents
- Other relatives (for example, aunts and uncles)
- The Crown

Contrary to common belief, it is not automatically the case that a spouse or civil partner will inherit the whole estate. Relying on the rules of intestacy may not reflect how you would like your estate bequeathed and may cause unnecessary complication and, potentially, costs for your loved ones. You should consider making a Will regardless of the value of your estate.

Within a Will you can:

- Choose who you want to act as executor and administer the estate for you;
- Name a guardian for any children under the age of 18;
- Leave gifts to specific individuals or organisations;
- Leave the remainder of your estate to whomever you wish;
- Leave assets in trust for young or vulnerable beneficiaries

What if I already have a will?

An existing Will should be reviewed every 3-5 years as personal and/or financial circumstances can change. It is also worth noting that marriage (or remarriage) automatically revokes a Will. In addition, if you have made a Will in another country, then do ensure that you have not unintentionally revoked your Will in England & Wales.

Do I need Legal Advice? How can Solicitors help?

It is possible to make a will without legal guidance but it is worth bearing in mind that complexity depends upon individual circumstances and not always just the size and value of your estate.

At **JE Bennett Law** we are specialists in vulnerable and elderly client law and are industry recognised leaders in our field. We are also a friendly, local firm. We add value to the will making process by clearly explaining the options available to you based on your own specific situation. We strongly advise you seek professional advice before making a will, to provide the peace of mind in knowing that your wishes will be adhered to.

How do I make a will and how much will it cost?

Prices will depend on individual circumstances. We offer a free initial consultation, so just pick up the phone and we'll talk you through the process and explain the pricing.

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JE Bennett Law is a specialist vulnerable client law firm. We are Industry-recognised leaders in our field with a proven track record of delivering timely, efficient and professional service for our clients.

