

Making a Will



Private Client Team



Stephens
Scown
Solicitors

Intestacy - Dying without a Will

The only way to ensure that your wishes are met after your death is to make a Will.

If you die without having made a Will the intestacy rules can apply in an arbitrary manner, particularly if there are no children.

- It may lead to your spouse having to share your estate with relatives who you may have never intended to benefit
- It could also result in a large part of your estate being liable to Inheritance Tax, purely because it has not all passed to your wife or husband as you intended
- The situation for co-habiting couples is even worse as there is no automatic right for the survivor to inherit anything in the estate
- If you are unmarried and have children they will inherit everything automatically, leaving your partner with nothing.

The rules for distributing someone's estate if there is no Will (the intestacy rules) were changed on 1st February 2009. Under these new rules there is still a division of the estate between your spouse and children or other relatives if there are no children.

The only safe and secure way to avoid these catastrophic consequences is to make a Will.



Making a Will

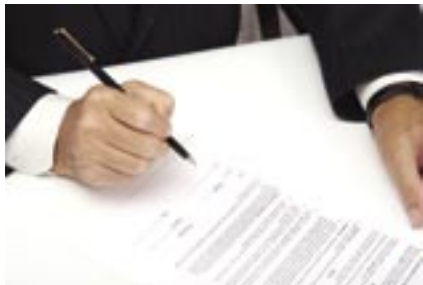
Bereavement is difficult enough for your family but if you pass away without making a Will (intestate), the law takes over and you have no say in who will benefit from your estate and who will handle the administration of your estate. Making a Will is one of the most important things you can do for your own peace of mind and to ensure that your wealth passes to those who you have chosen.

Common misconceptions

"It is too expensive."

"Everything I own will go automatically to my spouse or children."

This is not the case. A simple straightforward Will can cost as little as £150 +VAT. A Will gives you control over what happens to your assets.



Making a Will gives you peace of mind that your wishes will be met

How can we help?

There are a number of ways you can provide for loved ones after your death and our vastly experienced Private Client Team will provide you with the highest level of service and will sensitively guide you through your options.

Our Wills Service

- **Wills** - allowing you to specify who gets what and when; decide your funeral arrangements and restrict or enhance powers given to the executors
- **Appointing executors** to your Will
- **Appointing guardians** to look after your children
- **Inheritance tax** - tax planning advice to reduce the amount your estate has to pay, including trusts within your Will
- **Offshore and international issues** for those with international connections, through mixed jurisdiction marriages, domicile issues, second homes and foreign assets
- **Updating your existing Will** following divorce, marriage, entering into a civil partnership or change in your financial situation.

Good legal advice is about helping you take control of your life, both the planned and the unforeseen events. When seeking such important advice you need to have faith in the knowledge, and commitment, of your lawyer. You need to know they are going to work hard to help you achieve what you want.

Our legal expertise is widely recognised, and we are acknowledged as one of the leading law firms in the South West. However it is our commitment to our clients, combined with the expertise, that makes us the first choice for so many clients. It is also at the heart of client relationships that have stretched back over 50 years of unbroken service.

Inheritance Tax specialists

Members of:

- The Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP)
- Solicitors for the Elderly
- Law Society Probate Section

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