

# MAKING A WILL

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PERSONAL  
LAW

**Here when you  
need us**



**Making a Will is one of the most important things you can do for your own peace of mind and to ensure your wealth is passed on in the way you want it to be.**

**Bereavement is difficult enough for your family, but if you pass away without making a Will (known as 'intestate'), the law takes over. This means you have no say in who will benefit from your wealth and who will handle the administration of your estate.**

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## Dying without a Will

If you die without a Will, intestacy rules mean your estate is divided between your spouse and children, or other relatives if there are no children. These rules can apply in a seemingly arbitrary manner, particularly if there are no children.

- *It may lead to your spouse having to share your estate with relatives who you never intended to benefit*
- *It could result in a large part of your estate being liable to inheritance tax, because it has not all passed to your wife or husband as you intended*
- *If you are unmarried, even if you are living with your partner, they could be left with nothing, 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 only safe and secure way to avoid these possible consequences is to make a Will.

## Our Wills service

Making a Will enables you to specify who gets what and when, decide your funeral arrangements and restrict or enhance the powers of those responsible for putting your Will into action (the 'executors').

Our specialist Wills service can also help you deal with:

- *Appointing executors to your Will*
- *Appointing guardians to look after your children*
- *Inheritance tax 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 after divorce, marriage, civil partnership or a change in your financial situation*
- *Advice on how to deal with your 'digital estate' such as Facebook and other online accounts and assets*

We offer a number of fixed-fee services and other pricing options so you can choose the service that best suits your needs.

## How can we help?

There are numerous ways you can provide for loved ones after your death. Our vastly experienced Private Client team will provide you with the highest level of service to sensitively guide you through your options.

### Preparing for the future

Making a Will is one way of ensuring your wishes are carried out in the future. However, you should also consider the benefits of making a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA).

An LPA is a way of making sure that, if you become incapable of managing your own affairs during your lifetime, your wishes will still be carried out.

It may be that you become ill in the future, suffer an injury or develop a mental condition that leaves you unable to cope. If this happens, an LPA lets you nominate someone – a family member or close friend, for example – to manage your legal, financial and health affairs. If you don't have an LPA and become unable to manage your own affairs, the Court of Protection will appoint someone to do it on your behalf.

### Lasting Powers of Attorney

LPAs are versatile documents, but there are different types and the rules can be confusing. Our Private Client team can talk you through the options to create an LPA that best suits your needs, whether that be a Property and Affairs LPA or a Personal Welfare LPA.



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service**

## Giving you the knowledge to make better decisions

Good legal advice is about helping you take control of your life, through both planned and unforeseen events. When seeking such important advice, you need to have faith in the knowledge and commitment of your lawyer.

At Stephens Scown, we care about our clients and we work hard to help you achieve your goals. Our people deliver practical, expert advice to help you make informed decisions. This is based on a deep understanding of your needs and a commitment to building long-lasting relationships through the good times and the tough times.



### Contact details:

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## South West heritage, with nationwide coverage

Based in the South West but with a client base that stretches across the UK, our focused and flexible way of working enables us to provide the very best professional legal advice to our clients wherever they are. Independent legal directory Chambers & Partners describes us as a “dominant force” in the marketplace, and we feature in The Lawyer magazine’s prestigious Top 200 law firm rankings.

Members of:

- *The Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP)*
- *Solicitors for the Elderly*
- *Law Society Probate Section*
- *The Court of Protection’s Panel of Deputies (acting as receiver for clients who lack mental capacity)*