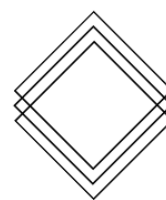


# Wills, Lasting Power of Attorney & Estate Planning

OUR GUIDE TO ENSURE YOUR FAMILY'S FUTURE IS SECURED



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MATTERS**

*Making Law Simple...*



## TOP TIPS FOR PLANNING YOUR ESTATE READ INSIDE FOR MORE

**Don't forget about  
personal items and  
digital assets**

We explain the importance

**Inheritance Tax planning**

We explain your options

**Seek specialist advice**

What you need to understand

Did you know that over 60% of the UK adult population still don't have a valid Will?  
My Law Matters are here to put this right.

Our mission is to make Will writing stress-free, easy and affordable. Wills are legal documents and small mistakes or oversights can cause major problems during the distribution of the estate.

Our Solicitors are here to guide you through the process and ensure that your Will reflects your wishes.

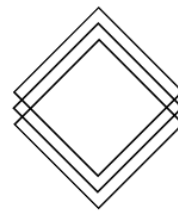
## Our Promise

All of our Wills are checked by a qualified Solicitor. Unlike many other online Will writing services, we are regulated and bound to act in the best interest of our clients.

Inheritance tax and estate planning is another reason for making a Will. If you do not have a Will, or your Will has not been reviewed by a qualified professional, the beneficiaries of your estate may be surprised by an unexpected inheritance tax bill.

We can advise you how to plan your estate to keep the inheritance tax to a minimum.

**We offer a Will writing service starting at £195\***



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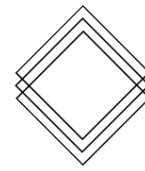
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for your FREE  
quotation today!**



# Without a valid Will...

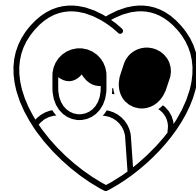


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1



You may create an unnecessary Inheritance Tax bill for your beneficiaries.



2

Your unmarried partner could get nothing and lose the home you occupy together.

3



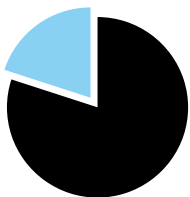
Your estate may go to people you would not have chosen.



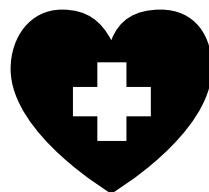
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The Courts will choose guardians for your children.

5



Your business may be divided up, sold or given to someone you would not choose.



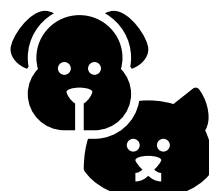
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Dependants needing care may lose your financial support, regardless of your intentions.

7



Others may claim on your estate causing unnecessary expenses, family disputes and delays with distribution of assets.



8

Your pet may be left without a guardian.

# Our top tips for Will writing and planning your estate

1

## **Don't forget about personal items and digital assets.**

Whether it be a family heirloom, a collection, a book of photographs or journal filled with memories, we all have items that are significant to us but wouldn't necessarily look important to someone else. Your Will gives you the opportunity to not only think about the big stuff, but also to put in writing all the little things that you'd like carried out in a certain way.

These days, our digital assets are an important consideration, too. We all have increasing amounts of assets stored online, ranging from email and Facebook accounts, passwords for online accounts, to digital music and photos. You can choose to pass these onto family or friends when writing a Will.

2

## **Plan for Inheritance Tax.**

Inheritance Tax is a tax on the estate of someone who has died, including all property, personal possessions, and money. In the UK, a record amount of £5.4 billion was collected by HMRC in inheritance tax receipts in 2018/2019.

There are various reliefs and allowances available which a professional Will writer should take into consideration when advising on the contents of the client's Will.

Our team of experienced Solicitors offer inheritance tax advice to your specific family and financial circumstances to ensure that the IHT payable on your estate is kept at minimum.

3

## **Revisit your Will at least every 3 years or following significant changes in personal life and financial circumstances.**

As your life changes, so should your Will. At My Law Matters we encourage clients to revisit their Will and plan their estate yearly to ensure changes are always kept on top of.

Whether you have experienced a significant life event such as the birth of a baby, a change of marital status or the sale of a property, you want to make sure that your Will is current and ensures your assets and property are distributed according to your wishes after you die.



**Speak to one of  
our experts  
Call 0800 288 9947**

Your Will is one of the most important legal documents you will make in your life.

With us you can always rely on a sensible approach, proficiency, and genuine interest. We will guide you through the whole process from taking instructions to execution of your Will. We will ensure that you understand all the inheritance tax implications of your testamentary wishes.

We can arrange for your original Will to be kept safe in our Will storage free of charge. You can enjoy all the advantages of our online customer platform.

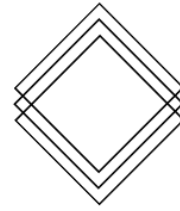
Our fees are transparent and will be communicated in advance.

## What is a lasting power of attorney (LPA)?

While a Will is here to ensure that your wishes are carried out after you pass away, an LPA can help you maintain control over your financial and welfare affairs during your lifetime.

A Lasting Power of Attorney is a legal document which makes it possible for you to appoint family members or a trusted person to carry out your wishes should you become unable to make decisions for yourself.

This may happen gradually through illness or due to a sudden event such as a stroke or an accident. It is wise to think ahead and ensure that if this were to occur, a trusted and close person can deal with your affairs and look after you.



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## Writing a Will | Jargon-buster

**Beneficiary:** A person, or an organisation, to whom you leave something in your Will.

**Bequest:** A term for a gift that you leave to a person or organisation in your Will. There are several different types of bequest, which your solicitor can explain to you.

**Codicil:** A document used to change a Will that has already been made. You can find more information about codicils in how to leave a gift to charity in your Will.

**Estate:** Your estate is the total sum of your personal possessions, property and money minus any liabilities.

**Executor(s):** The person or people that you appoint to ensure your final wishes are carried out. These can be professionals, friends, family members or institutions such as banks and some charities.

**Guardian:** Someone who is responsible for children until they become 18.

**Inheritance tax:** This tax is paid on the portion of your estate that is above the nil-rate threshold.

**Intestate:** The word used to describe someone who has died without making a Will.

**Legacy:** Another word for a gift or bequest left in your Will.

**Probate:** When somebody dies leaving a Will, their executors will usually need to apply for a Grant of Probate. Once this is obtained, the executors can deal with the wishes expressed in the Will and distribute the gifts that have been left.

**Residue:** This is what is left of your estate after any outstanding debts, taxes, pecuniary and specific bequests have been distributed to beneficiaries.

**Testator:** The name given to a person who has made a Will.

**Trustee(s):** One or more people who manage a trust.

# How an LPA works?

Mrs Jones suffers with an unexpected injury resulting in a **loss of mental capacity.**



## Without an LPA

Mrs Jones's family doesn't have the legal right to make decisions for her.

- Sole bank accounts cannot be accessed.
- Joint bank accounts are frozen in some circumstances.
- Bills cannot be paid with Mrs Jones's money.
- Property cannot be sold, meaning the cohabiting partner can't move house if they wanted to.
- Next of kin doesn't have the legal right to make decisions about medical treatment.
- Next of kin doesn't have the legal right to make personal choices, for example where Mrs Jones should live.

If you don't plan ahead and you suffer an accident or illness which causes you to lose mental capacity. Your next of kin can only get legal authority to act on your behalf through a Court order. This is a long and expensive process.



## With an LPA

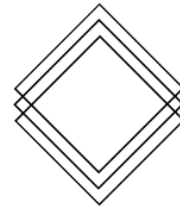
Mrs Jones put an LPA in place for both financial health & care decisions.

- Mrs Jones has legally an Attorney to make decisions about finances on her behalf.
- Bills can be paid as normal.
- The bank recognises the chosen representative's legal authority and no accounts are frozen.
- Investment decisions can be made by Mrs Jones's representatives.
- Property can be sold if needed.
- Next of kin does have the legal right to make personal choices, for example where Mrs Jones should live.

By planning ahead, you can choose who should have legal authority to make decisions on your behalf if you're unable to make decisions for yourself. A Lasting Power of Attorney costs far less than a court order and the people you choose can step in as soon as they're needed.

**Call us on 0800 288 9947  
for your FREE quotation today!**

**WE ALSO OFFER THE  
FOLLOWING SERVICES:**



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#### **Dispute Resolution**

A civil dispute is usually a disagreement between private individuals or between an individual and a business or organisation.

Our expert team aim to resolve your dispute as quickly and efficiently as possible, making sure that you understand your rights and are kept updated throughout the process.

#### **Residential Conveyancing**

We understand that moving house can be stressful at the best of times but our highly trained Conveyancing Solicitors have years of experience and are committed to ensuring that everything runs smoothly wherever you are moving to. They will talk you through the process and guide you throughout, allowing you to oversee the work and keep track of progress.

#### **Probate & Estate Planning**

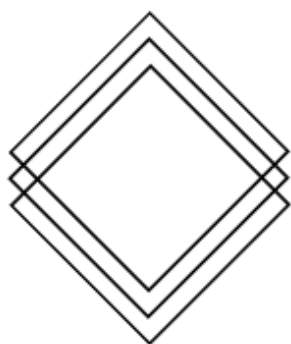
Feeling safe in the knowledge that you're being supported by a dedicated solicitor can make all the difference in dealing with challenges relating to wills and inheritance. For this reason, our team provides pragmatic and informed legal advice designed to offer you a maximum amount of legal insight and support.

#### **Family Law**

Divorce is possibly one of the most stressful life events you can go through, and one that can have a major impact on your family and finances if it isn't handled correctly.

At My Law Matters we want you to have peace of mind by ensuring that you have the best legal advice so that you can make informed decisions.





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To speak to a member of our team call us now on:  
**0800 288 9947**

**Authorised and regulated by the  
Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA number: 800557)**

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