

TOZERS

Don't leave your affairs to chance, **make a Will**



Making a Will is a task which most of us put off for as long as possible – yet it is one of the simplest steps we can take to ensure that our families are provided for when we die.

Many people believe that only the wealthy need to make Wills and that if you are married everything passes to your spouse. This is not necessarily true – your spouse may have to share your property with other relatives.

What if I die without a Will?

If you die without having made a Will (“intestate”) your property will be distributed in accordance with a set of legal rules. You can only avoid the application of these rules by making a Will.

The intestacy rules make some financial provision for husbands, wives and children, but probably not as much as you would wish – for example, your husband/wife may not receive all your property.

The intestacy rules make no provision for unmarried partners. The only way they may benefit is by bringing a court action.

If you leave children under the age of 18, their entitlement will be held on trust – but the terms of these trusts are rigid and inflexible. If you make a Will you can provide for your children in a modern, less cumbersome way.

Friends and charities whom you might wish to remember will not benefit under the intestacy rules.

Will tax be payable on my death?

Inheritance Tax may be payable depending on the size of your estate. A carefully drafted Will could help to reduce the tax bill.

Can I draft my own Will?

It is not advisable to try to draft your own Will. The law relating to Wills is complex and the document you leave behind may be invalid. If your Will is not clear, it may lead to disputes which could cost a small fortune in legal fees.

How do I make a Will?

Contact us. We will meet you to discuss your wishes, and advise you on how to achieve your objectives. We are happy to make home visits where necessary.

Can I change my Will?

You should review your Will every five years or so – and sooner if your circumstances change. In particular you should remember that marriage will invalidate a Will (unless it was made “in contemplation of marriage”). Also divorce invalidates those parts of a Will which refer to a former spouse.

Changes can easily be made, by making a codicil or a fresh Will.

How can Tozers help?

For further advice on making or amending a Will then please contact our Probate and Wills Team.

With specialist expertise we can advise on all aspects of preparing a Will, from straightforward arrangements, to more complex situations.

Whatever your situation is, we can help and we'll do our best to make sure that we take as much of the burden from you as we can at what is already a difficult and stressful time.

www.tozers.co.uk/personal/probate-wills



Get in touch

Ready to talk?

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