



Making a Will

These are 6 simple steps to help you prepare for writing your Will. We would always recommend you use a solicitor or a member of the institute of Professional Will writers to assist you.

1 Make a list of your assets

It can be a good idea to list your assets and estimate their value. This is something you can do yourself, saving you time and money with your solicitor.

2 Make a list of what you owe

Always try to write down what you owe or are owed. Considering an outstanding mortgage, loans, or bills, will give you a much better idea of the value of your estate.

3 Decide who you'd like to benefit and how

Jot down a list of the people and organisations you wish to remember in your Will, and consider how you'd like to divide your estate between them.

4 Choose your executors and meet your solicitor

You will also need to choose executors – people often choose their solicitor and a family member to carry out the terms of their Will, to ensure their wishes are secured.

5 Create a letter of wishes

You can create a letter of wishes to help those who may make your funeral arrangements when the time comes. You may wish to ask for donations as well as or instead of flowers.

6 Keep it safe and up to date

Your Will is such an important document. Most people like to leave it in the care of their solicitor or legal advisor and keep their own copy in a safe place, ensuring their executors know how to find it. You may wish to register your Will with one of national Will registers, such as 'Certainty'. Your legal advisor can give you more information about this.

You should also review your Will every five years, or after any major changes in your life – such as getting married or divorced, having a child, or moving house. Any changes must be by 'codicil' (an addition, amendment or supplement to a Will) or by making a new Will, otherwise your changes will have no legal effect and could invalidate the whole of your existing Will.