

## WILLS

Putting in place arrangements for what happens to your estate after your death is a sensible step for the future security of your family. It also ensures that your wishes will be carried out the way you would like them to be.

Everyone is different, so it is essential to seek legal advice tailored to your personal circumstances. If you would like to discuss these issues in more detail, please contact us.

### WHY MAKE A WILL?

Writing a Will is one of the most important personal and financial decisions we make in our lifetimes.

Key reasons as to why it is important to make a Will:

- You choose who benefits from your estate.
- Partners who are unmarried or not in a civil partnership cannot inherit from each other unless this is specified in a Will.
- If you have minor children, a Will allows you to put in place arrangements for their future care if either one or both parents die.
- Your Will can help you pass on your assets in the most tax-efficient way.
- Your Will needs to reflect changes in your circumstances. For example, if you have separated and your former spouse or civil partner lives with someone else, you may not wish them to benefit from the automatic inheritance they are entitled to under the laws of intestacy.

## SHOULD I USE A SOLICITOR?

By instructing a solicitor to draft your Will, you will have peace of mind that you are dealing with a legal professional who will draft a Will that sets out your wishes in a legally compliant and tax-efficient way.

## WHAT DO I DO ABOUT MY WILL IF MY CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE?

When a Will has been made, it is essential to keep it up to date to take account of changes in circumstances. We recommend that you review the contents of your Will every five years or on life changing events to make sure that it still reflects your wishes.

The only way you can change a Will is by making a codicil or by creating a new Will.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

You will almost certainly already have an idea of what you want to say in your Will and it is a good idea to give this some serious thought before you see your solicitor. Doing so makes it easier for your solicitor to draw up the Will, and reduces the time and costs involved. If you are interested in making a Will, please ask for one of our Wills Questionnaires to help you think about the things you need to consider.

If you have overseas assets it is important for you to discuss with our experts how to tailor your Will to deal with this, otherwise it could lead to a complicated situation and be costly for your family to sort out. If you wish to make a Will or amend an existing Will, please contact Jeffrey Cohen or Natalie Payne. As experts in their fields, they will guide you through the process.

## LOOKING AFTER YOUR WILL

Once your Will has been made, we can store it for you free of charge.



**Jeffrey Cohen**  
Senior Associate, London

**T:** 00 44 (0) 207 240 0521  
**E:** Jeffrey.Cohen@mackrell.com



**Natalie Payne**  
Assistant Solicitor, London

**T:** 00 44 (0) 207 240 0521  
**E:** Natalie.Payne@mackrell.com



[www.mackrell.com](http://www.mackrell.com)

