



# Making a Will

Making a Will is essential. It offers peace of mind to all concerned. The alternative is to leave behind a state of confusion, anxiety and additional expense. A Will ensures that what you leave is distributed according to your wishes so that only those you wish to benefit can do so. Keeping your Will up to date is equally important.

## Kreston Reeves Will writing service

Our solicitors will make the process of drafting your Will as straightforward as possible given your circumstances and we will continue to support you afterwards. Remember that your Will is an individual, personal document that we will tailor to suit your needs. With Kreston Reeves' background in law, tax and finance, we have unrivalled expertise which can make a real difference.

## What should a Will include?

The basic rule is to ensure everything you own is passed on, but Wills can cover far more than just gifts of assets. Funeral instructions are useful and the naming of guardians for any children is critical if they are under 18.

Gifts of jewellery, paintings and heirlooms are commonly included, as are legacies of money and gifts to charity. Trusts will need to be set up for children or grandchildren if they are still young, and trustees appointed to hold their inheritance until you decide when it should be transferred to them.

An interest in a business, farm or company must be dealt with carefully and in a tax-efficient way, and the appointment of special business executors might be sensible.

Wills can also create foundations, set up new charities, give directions for the future care of animals and save

considerable amounts of Inheritance Tax if drafted properly.

## Trusts in Wills

Sometimes using a trust in a Will is vital. Some popular reasons for including one are:

- To save Inheritance Tax
- To provide for under-age beneficiaries
- To stop your wishes from being changed after you have died
- To protect your assets if a beneficiary may need long term care
- To maintain maximum flexibility over the distribution of your estate
- To protect and provide for a disabled or vulnerable beneficiary
- To protect a loved one's right to live in your house whilst you leave it to others
- To safeguard assets for a beneficiary getting divorced, or at risk of bankruptcy or financial insecurity.

## Executors and Trustees

These are the people who have the legal responsibility to wind up your estate after you have died. Ideally, they should be business-minded relatives or friends. Kreston Reeves has a specialist Executor and Trustee service to assist with any legal and tax issues which may arise when dealing with a deceased person's affairs. We can take full legal responsibility for administering an estate, help you to obtain the Grant of Probate quickly and efficiently or act in an advisory capacity only. More information about our services can be obtained from our Probate Advice Line on 01403 253282.

## Unintended consequences

If you do not make a Will, all or part of your estate may go to relatives that you never intended to benefit or, as the law does not recognise couples who are not married or in civil partnerships, your partner in life may receive nothing.

## Storage

All our clients' Wills are registered on a database and stored free of charge.

## Will review

To keep your Will up to date. Please call us to discuss your plans for the future.

## Contact us

To keep up to date on news and views about Wills, Trusts, Probate and Powers of Attorney please visit our webpage: [www.krestonreeves.com/services/legal-services](http://www.krestonreeves.com/services/legal-services)

For more than tax, legal and wealth advice please speak with your usual Kreston Reeves advisor or contact a member of the Kreston Reeves Legal Advisory team using the contact details below:

**Sussex Legal Team - 01403 253282**

**Kent Legal Team - 01634 899800**

**London Legal Team - 020 7382 1820**

**Email - [enquiries@krestonreeves.com](mailto:enquiries@krestonreeves.com)**

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