WILL & ESTATE PLANNING

HAVE YOU MADE A WILL?

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simplerlaw

MAKING A WILL

MORE THAN 60% OF ADULTS IN THE UK STILL DO NOT HAVE A WILL. ARE YOU ONE OF THEM?

If you haven't already made a Will then you should read this. Because without a Will you will die intestate, which means...

THE GOVERNMENT	Decides who gets your money and your property.
MARRIED COUPLES AND CIVIL PARTNERS	The law sets financial limits as to how much your spouse or civil partner can receive. As such, even though you may want 'everything' to pass to your spouse/civil partner, there is no provision to guarantee this will happen.
COUPLES LIVING TOGETHER	The law currently makes no provision for unmarried partners to inherit anything from each other and so the surviving partner could receive nothing at all. This is regardless of whether or not you have children together.
PARENTS	Without a Will the authorities could be involved in deciding who will care for and raise your children.
SEPARATED COUPLES	Your spouse may inherit all, or a significant share, of your estate, even if you have been separated for many years.
INHERITANCE TAX	The rules of intestacy make no provision for mitigating Inheritance Tax.
TIME & COMPLICATIONS	An estate can take longer to administer when a valid Will isn't in place, and without your guidance and planning, complications can occur. This can also create tensions within your family as known wishes may not be carried out.
PERSONAL ITEMS	Without a Will there is no guarantee who will receive those important family items.

WHY CHOOSE SIMPLER LAW?

THIS IMPORTANT DOCUMENT WILL BE NEEDED TO CARRY OUT YOUR WISHES.

USING OUR AFTERCARE SERVICE, YOU ONLY NEED TO GO THROUGH THE FULL PROCESS OF MAKING A WILL ONCE.

FOR FULL DETAILS AND A FULL RANGE OF BENEFITS, PLEASE SEE OUR AFTERCARE SERVICES BROCHURE.

Simpler Law are leaders in the field of private client legal services and specialise in Estate Planning. This means that all of our staff are dedicated to finding the best planning solutions for you. With over 120,000 satisfied clients all over the UK, by choosing us to assist with your Will writing needs you are in good company.

If your affairs are more complicated we can also assist with your trust planning requirements. Through our Aftercare service you only need to go through the full process of making a Will once.

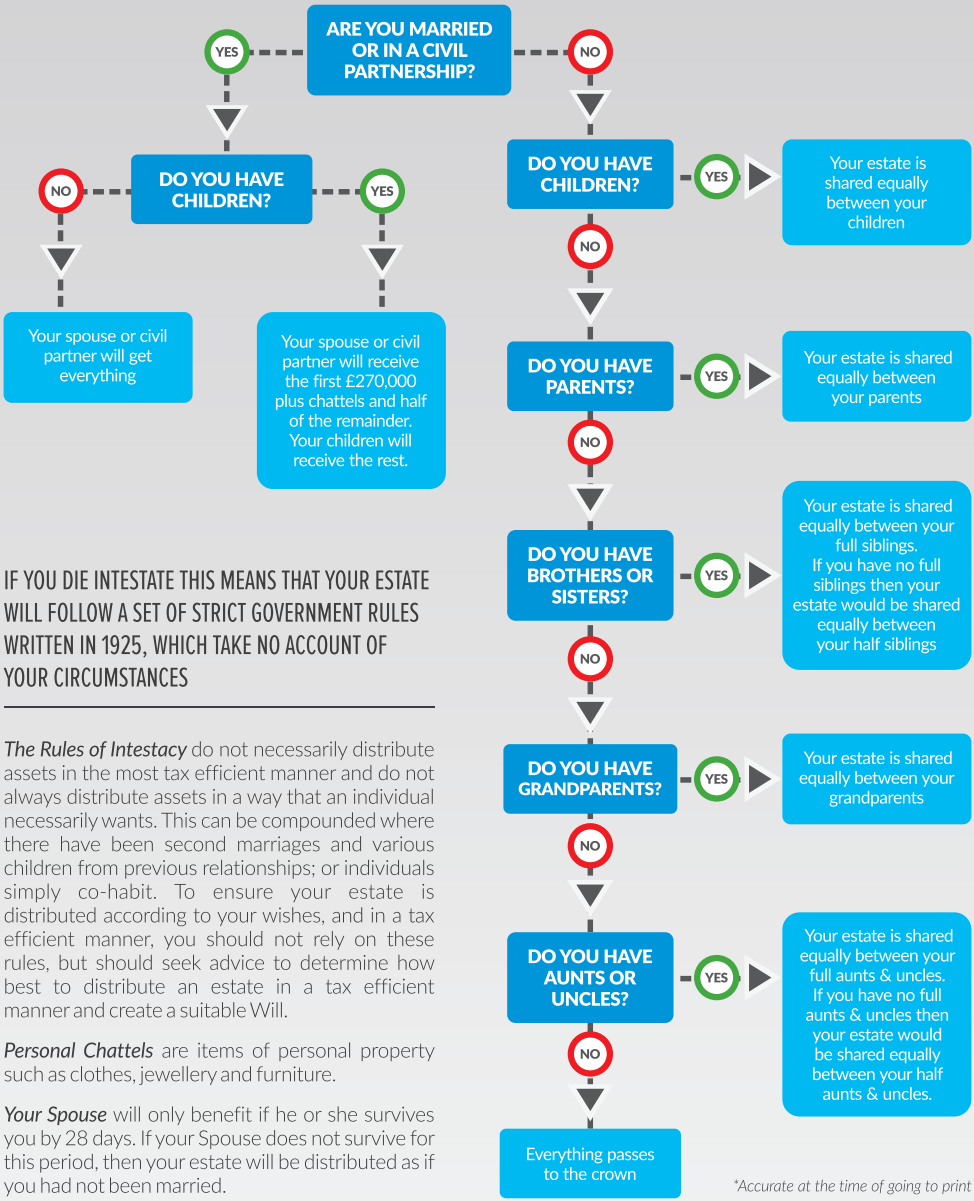
Taking advantage of our Private Client Care Plan gives you the peace of mind that your documents are safe and secure and, should you wish to update them at any time due to a change in family circumstances, we will do this for you without further charge. For full details and a full range of benefits, please see our Aftercare Services brochure.

We are already trusted by our clients to manage over £380 million in trust assets across the United Kingdom. We are also recommended by a number of financial planning and legal services firms as their provider of choice for estate planning and we have been recognised for our excellent service, expertise and advice.

Call us today for a no obligation chat on **0333 600 1000**.

INTESTACY FLOWCHART

DYING WITHOUT A WILL MEANS YOU DIE INTESTATE



IF YOU DIE INTESTATE THIS MEANS THAT YOUR ESTATE WILL FOLLOW A SET OF STRICT GOVERNMENT RULES WRITTEN IN 1925, WHICH TAKE NO ACCOUNT OF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES

The Rules of Intestacy do not necessarily distribute assets in the most tax efficient manner and do not always distribute assets in a way that an individual necessarily wants. This can be compounded where there have been second marriages and various children from previous relationships; or individuals simply co-habit. To ensure your estate is distributed according to your wishes, and in a tax efficient manner, you should not rely on these rules, but should seek advice to determine how best to distribute an estate in a tax efficient manner and create a suitable Will.

Personal Chattels are items of personal property such as clothes, jewellery and furniture.

Your Spouse will only benefit if he or she survives you by 28 days. If your Spouse does not survive for this period, then your estate will be distributed as if you had not been married.

*Accurate at the time of going to print

WILLS

OUR TEAM HAVE WRITTEN OVER 120,000 WILLS, AND THERE REALLY ISN'T ANYTHING WE CAN'T HELP YOU WITH.

The implications of not having a Will, or not having updated your Will when circumstances change, can be costly and cause distress to your loved ones. Today's relationships can be quite complicated, however our Client Care Team in Lincoln are experienced in all aspects of Legal Services for the family.

What to expect in a Simpler Law Family and Estate Will

MAKING YOUR OWN WILL: WHAT YOU CONTROL

- You choose your own Executors and Trustees
- You choose what age your children or Grandchildren will inherit
- You document who you want to be guardians of your children
- You decide who inherits from your estate, and not the Rules of Intestacy
- You determine who does not inherit from your estate
- You can leave specific gifts, legacies, and charitable donations
- You specify your funeral wishes
- You can document your Organ Donation preferences

THE SIMPLER LAW CLIENT CARE TEAM ARE READY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE...

PHONE US ON
0333 600 1000

OR TEXT THE WORD
TALK TO 66777 AND
WE'LL CALL YOU BACK

A clear step by step process to help you ensure you get the Will you want.

TO CREATE YOUR BESPOKE DOCUMENTS SIMPLER LAW WILL:

- Agree a convenient time for your Consultation
- Provide guidance to help you prepare for your Consultation
- Help you navigate through the Will Instruction
- Only draft your documents when you are happy with your instruction
- Pass all documentation through to our Compliance Team for checking
- Post your documents to you with clear signing guides
- Call you to ensure safe receipt and answer any questions you may have

Call us today on **0333 600 1000** for a free, no obligation chat. Text the word '**TALK**' to 66777 and we'll call you back, or email **ENQUIRIES@SIMPLERLAW.CO.UK**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q **MY SPOUSE OR PARTNER WILL INHERIT EVERYTHING ANYWAY, WON'T THEY?**

A **NO** - Your husband or wife may not inherit your whole estate in certain situations.

NO - Unmarried couples and those not in a civil partnership will receive nothing, as they are not recognised by the Rules of Intestacy.

Q **MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY KNOW WHAT I WANT, SO I DON'T NEED TO MAKE A WILL, DO I?**

A **YES** - Even though you may have told family and friends what you want unless you put it in a binding Will they cannot follow your wishes and must adhere to the Rules of Intestacy. This could mean that people you may have wanted to inherit miss out altogether.

YES - Even in the closest of families, if nothing is clearly laid out in writing, things can quickly get out of hand, resulting in disputes and arguments that can cause family rifts for years.

YES - Unless your wishes are in writing, they have no legal effect. Therefore, children may have to have Guardians appointed by the Courts or become a Ward of Court.

Q I CAN GET A FREE WILL THROUGH MY BANK OR UNION. I COULD EVEN WRITE ONE MYSELF, SO WHY SHOULD I PAY YOU FOR ONE?

A

FACT - Most Wills written by banks or unions are simple Wills written without providing any specialist advice. You could be missing an opportunity to reduce Inheritance Tax or get advice on ways to distribute your estate more effectively based on your specific family circumstances.

FACT - A number of these 'free' Wills include a compulsory appointment of a professional executor without disclosing the fees that this will incur. While a professional is recommended in some circumstances you should be fully informed about any fees that will be charged and their appointment should be your choice.

Q THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT TAXES THAT WILL BE PAYABLE ON MY DEATH SO WHY BOTHER TAKING ADVICE?

A

NOT TRUE - There are a number of exemptions and allowances that can be utilised to reduce the amount of Inheritance Tax that is paid on your estate but your Will must be drafted to ensure these are available.

Q I HAVE A WILL ALREADY. WON'T THAT DO?

A

NOT NECESSARILY - In many cases, Wills can become outdated or, more worryingly, invalid in certain situations. It is wise to review your Will periodically. (See our *Aftercare Services* brochure for our review service). As a simple health check, these are some of the questions you need to ask yourself:

- Have you or your partner changed your name?
- Has your relationship status changed?
- Have you had any children or adopted a child?
- Are your children now over the age of 18?
- Do you need to change Guardians, Executors or Trustees?
- Are your Beneficiaries still alive? i.e. Children, Family, Friends.
- Do any gifts or legacies need updating?
- Do you need tax advice with recent legislation changes?
- Has your Will been signed and witnessed correctly?
- Do you know where your Will is stored?

To make or review your Will and for a free, no obligation chat, call us today on 0333 600 1000.

OUR SERVICES

WILLWRITING
TRUST AND TAX SPECIALISTS
CONVEYANCING
PROBATE
PROFESSIONAL TRUSTEES
COURT OF PROTECTION SPECIALISTS
PRIVATE CLIENT CARE
PROFESSIONAL EXECUTOR SERVICES
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BEREAVEMENT SERVICES
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WILL PLANNING • ESTATE PLANNING • FUNERAL PLANNING

doing ordinary things ***extraordinarily well***