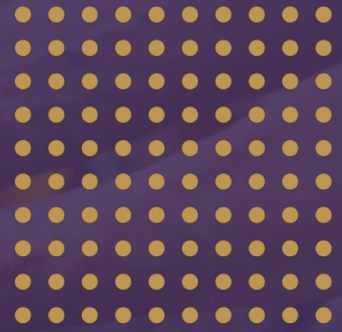


The importance of making a Will



Did you know that less than half of the UK population has a will?

Without a will, your estate is subject to intestacy rules, which often lead to unintended consequences, such as disputes among family members, financial complications, and decisions being made by the court that may not align with your wishes.



The benefits of having a will

- **Ensures your wishes are followed** – A will gives you control over how your assets are distributed. Without one, intestacy rules apply and may exclude unmarried partners or stepchildren.
- **Protects minor children** – You can appoint guardians, ensuring your children are cared for by people you trust.
- **Reduces family disputes** – Clear instructions minimise the risk of disagreements and costly litigation.
- **Improves tax efficiency** – A will can help reduce inheritance tax, preserving more for your beneficiaries.
- **Provides for modern families** – It ensures unmarried partners and stepchildren are properly provided for.

The consequences of intestacy

When someone dies intestate, their estate is distributed according to strict rules that rarely reflect personal intentions or family circumstances, known as the rules of intestacy. These can often result in:

- **Unintended distribution of assets** – Intestacy rules dictate who inherits, which may force the sale of assets and exclude unmarried partners.
- **Court-decided guardianship** – Without named guardians, the court decides who cares for minor children, potentially leading to family disputes.
- **Disinheriting loved ones** – Close friends, stepchildren, or even long-term partners may be excluded entirely from your estate.
- **Estate passing to the Crown** – If no eligible relatives are found, the estate may pass to the Crown, known as Bona Vacantia.



Taking Action: Why You Should Make a Will

Drafting a will is a straightforward process that removes uncertainty, reduces stress during an already challenging time, and provides peace of mind knowing that your wishes will be honoured.

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How we can help

Our private client department offers guidance to help you create a will tailored to your specific circumstances. Whether you are a homeowner, a parent, or an investor, our team is here to ensure your wishes are respected.

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Get in touch with our team

✉ enquiries@solegal.co.uk

London ■ Brighton ■ Bath ■ Eastbourne ■ Hastings ■ Ulverston