SUSAN HOWARTH SOLICITORS LIMITED - WHY MAKE A WILL

WHY MAKE A WILL?

"'In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

Why Is It Important to Make A Will?

• To ensure the right people inherit your money, property or possessions. If you do not do this through a will, the Law will share it out regardless of your wishes or intentions.

• The Law makes no provision for unmarried partners. It can be a lengthy and costly exercise to fight for your security under the Inheritance Laws with no guarantee of success

• To ensure your children or other dependents are cared for

• To secure the well being of your pets

• To avoid placing huge financial and emotional pressures on those loved ones left behind, just at a time when they are least able to endure them.

• To make provision for the possibility of having to pay for care in the future.

• To reduce how much the tax man gets of your hard-earned money

Why do so many people put off making a will?

“I am too young”

Sadly, death is no respecter of age. Anyone over the age of 18 who is of sound mind can make a Will and you are never too young to do so. Life is uncertain and none of us knows when an accident or illness might strike.

“I have got nothing to leave”

Most of us have more belongings than we realise and are constantly acquiring more but it’s not just about money and property. What about children or pets? What if you are the carer for an elderly parent? You need to make provision for their ongoing care

“I understand that it will all go to my wife/husband anyway even if I have no Will”

Not necessarily so. The Law is quite specific in sharing out the estates of people who die without a will which might mean your property goes to people you don’t like or your loved ones end up with less than you would have wished.

“I don’t like to think about depressing things like that”

None of us likes to contemplate our own mortality but we can promise you that there is no evidence that making a Will invites bad luck! We are able to make the process stress free, straightforward and, if not exactly pleasurable then certainly not unpleasant.

“I am too busy and haven’t got the time”

Making a Will does not have to be time consuming. On average, it takes less than an hour of your time to make a Will from the first meeting with us to signing the Will. We are happy to visit you at home if required and will do our best to fit in with your schedule and see you at times convenient to yourself.

“It is too expensive; maybe I will do it another time”

Our standard charge for a Will is £175.00 plus VAT. If you are a couple the total cost is usually £250.00 plus VAT. Wills involving more complex issues such as tax planning are generally more expensive but we are happy to quote a price for you. To help you spread the cost we are able to discuss payment by installments if required.

Do You Need to Use A Solicitor?

You are not required by Law to use a Solicitor and there are many will writing services available. You can also do it yourself using documents bought on your local high street.

However, given the importance of getting it right we recommend getting professional advice where you can be confident that all of your financial and personal circumstances are considered in drawing up a Will which suits your own unique and very personal circumstances. Solicitors are also required to be insured just in case they get it wrong, other services do not provide you with that security.

What About the Future?

Once you have made a Will you must review it periodically and in particular when circumstances change, for example, marriage, divorce, the birth of children or grand children or even moving house. We therefore recommend that Wills are reviewed every five years.

The Certainty National Will Register

In a recent survey, 67% of people questioned did not know where to find their parents' Wills. When you register your will with the National Will Register its location is tagged. We hold your Will safely, but we digitally record its location on the Wills register so that Beneficiaries are able to locate it when the time comes. Please contact us for details of this important service

No more Excuses! Don’t Put It Off Any Longer!

We would be happy to advise you in detail about making a Will, the procedure involved and the costs. Please contact us on 01606 48777 for more information or to make an appointment.