

Important Information relating to Wills

When you appoint Executors in your Will, it is quite in order to appoint your adult children or other family members to be your executors, even if they are also to be beneficiaries.

If you live abroad, move abroad to live in the future or if you own property abroad now or in the future, please discuss this with us now, or at the appropriate time in the future. Your Will is likely to still be valid, but may be improved.

Your Will is likely to say that it is not a mutual Will. This means that the survivor will be free to alter his or her Will after the first death. It is possible to have mutual Wills where the survivor is blocked from making any changes but there are difficulties with this and it is generally considered better for the surviving spouse to have flexibility to make alterations as circumstances dictate - and be trusted to act fairly and get it right!

Any reference in your Will to "children" includes all of YOUR children whether legitimate, illegitimate or adopted by you unless they have been specifically excluded. Step-children and other persons that you consider to be your "children" and whom you wish to include need to have been specifically identified as such and referred to by name and relationship to you, if any, otherwise they will not take any benefit.

Your Will incorporates the Standard Provisions of the Society of Trust & Estate Practitioners which gives your Executors additional powers and provisions that will help them administer your estate properly and will be of particular benefit if, for example, you were to have infant children, or if, for some other reason, your estate might have to be held in trust for a number of years.

When you have signed your Will, we will place the original in our firm's strongroom for safekeeping free of charge. We will supply you with a photographic copy of the Will for you to keep with your private papers at home so that, in the event of your death, your family will know that your Will is held here.

If you need to make any minor amendment, addition or alteration to your Will in future it may be possible to do this by way of a Codicil rather than a whole new Will.

If you go through a divorce, your Will is not automatically invalid, but the part that relates to your former husband or wife is altered by Law so that it reads as though he or she had died before you. However, we would recommend that you discuss any amendments to your Will with us at that time.

If you marry or re-marry then any Will that you have had before your marriage will become invalid by law and void, and it is likely that everything would pass to your new husband/wife. It is essential therefore that you remember the need to make a new Will at that time to provide for anyone other than your new spouse e.g. children from a previous relationship, and to cover what happens if and when both you and your new husband/wife die.

Contact information

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