



IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN MAKING YOUR WILL

There are a number of things to think about before getting a lawyer to write your will. We also offer a useful checklist you can complete before your appointment.

Value of your estate

Your estate is the sum of all your assets. One of the most important things you'll have to work out is how much your estate is worth. This involves offsetting the current value of everything you own, including your property, car, all your personal possessions and any money, against all your debts, including mortgages, loans, overdrafts, any credit or extended purchase agreements.

Who you want to include

Your will is your chance to say how you'd like your assets to be distributed after you're gone. Gifts can be anything you own including specific items, money, property or a percentage of your estate.

Of course your loved ones come first, but if you'd like to also include a charity such as the Arts Centre, you'll need to specify the full name of the charity and the registered charity number.

Remember to talk to your family and friends about including the Arts Centre in your will, so they don't get any surprises and understand why.

Who will look after your children or pets?

If you have children under the age of 18 you'll need to decide who you would like to take care of them if you die. You can also provide for your pets in your will.

Who would you like to handle your affairs and give effect to your will?

The people who handle your affairs after you're gone are called executors. They can be professionals, friends, family members or any combination of these. It's usual for two people to share the task of executing your will. At least one of them should be younger than you.

What funeral arrangements would you like?

Your will also provides you with the opportunity to say what you'd like to happen at your funeral, which can greatly help your loved ones in their time of grief.

Checklist

Completing a checklist of what you want in your will can be helpful. It ensures nothing gets forgotten and prompts you to get information together that you think your lawyer will need, like full names and addresses and charity names. If you would like a checklist, please contact our Fundraising Manager.