

What is a Will?

A Will is a document that gives you the power to decide what should happen regarding guardianship of your children, your property, possessions and money when you die. Plus, you can make sure you don't pay more Inheritance Tax than you need to.

How long will the process take?

You will have an appointment with an adviser to explain all the options appropriate to your needs and then, if you decide to proceed, you will receive a draft for your approval together with an explanatory letter within 14 days. Once you have given your approval of this draft, our adviser returns with the final document, which must then be signed and witnessed (alternatively, it can be sent to you in the post, with clear instructions.)

Can the Will be changed?

Your Will can be changed at any time during your lifetime provided you retain capacity. You should review your Will from time to time. If your personal, property or financial circumstances change, you should change or update your Will.

What happens if I don't make a Will?

If you die without leaving a Will, your wishes are not taken into account. The law decides how your estate should be shared on your death. Dying without a Will is called dying intestate. Your estate is subject to the Intestacy Rules.

When does my Will become valid?

A Will becomes legally valid when it is signed and witnessed in accordance with the Wills Act 1837. It should also be dated.

Where should I store my Will?

You can either keep the will yourself or we can keep it for you in secure storage, in which case you'll have an unsigned copy (for reference purposes) together with a Certificate of Storage.

What are executors?

An executor carries out the instructions specified in your Will when you die. The executor will pay your taxes and debts and close your accounts. They're usually also appointed as trustees of your assets.

What are guardians?

A guardian is appointed to look after your children if there is no other person with parental responsibility alive at the date of your death. You should choose your guardians carefully and discuss with them if they are willing to take on the role of guardian in the event of your death.

When can I use the Scheme?

You can use the Scheme at any time throughout the year.