

Why is it important to make a Will?

Making a will is the only way to ensure your money, property, possessions and investments go to those you care about, or perhaps causes or charities of your choosing. If you don't make a will, when you pass away your estate may well not go to the people you want. There are special rules for how your estate will be distributed when there is no will and these are called intestacy rules. It is also important to understand that if you and your partner aren't married or in a civil partnership, your partner won't have a right to inherit if you don't have a will.



To make a Will you need to think about who you want to benefit from your will, whether you wish to give any specific gifts to particular people, where the residue of the estate is to go (any property or money left over after paying funeral and administrative expenses, taxes and legacies) what you want to happen if any of your beneficiaries should die before you. The appointment of executors also needs to be considered carefully as these are the people who deal with distributing your estate after you've died and it can involve a lot of work and responsibility.

There are very stringent rules around what constitutes a Will valid and it is vital to ensure the terms do not create problems for your executors and beneficiaries when dealing with your estate. It is therefore highly recommended to obtain advice from a lawyer who specialises in wills and probate.

When you have a Will in place you should review the terms from time to time and certainly after any major change in your life such as a new child or grandchildren, divorce, remarriage or moving house.

If you feel ready to write a will or need some advice before making a final decision please ring one of our offices to arrange an appointment.



The Law Society's Wills and Inheritance Quality Scheme (WIQS) provides a best practice quality mark for wills and probate advice, and helps clients distinguish between providers that are unregulated, uninsured and untrained. Halsalls were delighted to be one of the first 15 firms in the country to be accredited in 2013 which formally recognises their high standards of practice and integrity.

We have four offices in key locations on the Wirral enabling easy access to our expertise:

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