

Probate, Trusts and Wills

A quick guide to why you should make a Will

The main reason to make a Will is to ensure that your assets and cherished belongings pass to your chosen beneficiaries on your death.

We make up a lot of excuses to justify not making a Will. The most common are: I don't have anything to leave; it will all pass to my husband/wife/partner; my family know what I want or it's too complicated, or even I just don't want to think about it.

Even if you think you have nothing now, this may not be strictly true. You may have life insurance, a pension policy or acquire assets in the near future or have personal possessions you want to go to the people you want them to. You may have children to consider.

It is a common misconception that all assets will pass to a spouse or partner. This is only the case in limited circumstances, and depends upon the value of your estate, and your immediate family. Even if they do, if you and your partner both die closely together or one later remarries, your assets could be left to someone you have never met.

Your family may well know your wishes but without a Will, the law dictates who is to receive your estate. The initial recipient may not be able, mentally, or financially



to redirect the funds to your preferred beneficiary if known, or may simply refuse to do so.

Most people's lives are complicated. Administering and distributing an estate after death can be even more complicated if there is no Will. This often leads to disputes, unnecessary tax bills, or wasted costs.

A well drafted Will can make life much easier for those left behind and will ensure your wishes are carried out.

We have a specialist team who can advise you about all the implications of making a Will for you.

For further advice or information please contact a member of our Probate, Trusts & Wills team at enquiries@mayowynnebaxter.co.uk
Offices at Brighton 01273 775533, Eastbourne 01323 730543, Lewes 01273 477071 and Seaford 01323 891412

Disclaimer: This document is written as a general guide only and is not intended to provide legal advice.

© Mayo Wynne Baxter July 2010 all rights reserved.