



Chadwick Lawrence

Yorkshire's Legal People

Wills

Why should I make a Will?

Without a Will, the law dictates what happens to your estate in the event of your death, and this may not necessarily reflect your wishes. A Will enables you to make sure that you have made financial provision for those who you would wish to benefit, should that be your family, friends or charities.

Other reasons to make a Will include:-

- For you to decide who will deal with your estate after death. This includes anything from dealing with your property to closing down bank accounts.
- A Will enables you to ensure that you have made financial provision for those who you would wish to benefit, should that be your family or friends, or a charity.
- To avoid your personal wealth being distributed in accordance with a statutory checklist called the 'Intestacy rules' which may not be who you would wish to benefit.
- A Will allows you to make an informed decision on who would take care of your minor children if you were not here and appoint appropriate guardians (the person who would be responsible for their upbringing).
- To protect your partner if you are unmarried and to ensure provisions are made for step-children as they do not automatically inherit. Even if you are married, your spouse may not inherit your whole estate. Making a Will is pivotal for peace of mind.
- A Will makes things easier for your loved ones at an already upsetting time.
- A Will assists in family disputes should any arise following your death.
- To seek advice in inheritance tax planning.
- You can always change your Will as your circumstances change.