



Making a Will

A Will is an essential part of planning for your future and if you die without having made one, the law will decide where your hard-earned money and belongings will go in accordance with a strict and arguably outdated set of intestacy rules. Here are just a few of the common reasons you should think about making a Will.

- **There is no such thing as a 'common law' spouse.** Despite what many people think, if you and your partner are unmarried or have not entered into a Civil Partnership – they will not be entitled to inherit any of your estate under the intestacy rules.
- **Making sure your money goes to the right place.** The laws of intestacy only cater for family members and have a strict order of who should inherit your estate and in what shares.
- **Protecting your children.** Under your Will, you can appoint guardians for minor children to ensure they are taken care of by the people you have chosen.
- **Getting your Affairs in order.** Without a Will, it can be a complicated and stressful process for those closest to you to deal with your assets and it is difficult to know how else those responsible for dealing with your affairs and funeral arrangements will know your wishes

These are just a few of the points to think about and why making a Will is an essential way to protect your family and your assets.

The Process

Planning for what happens when you are no longer here can seem like a daunting and uncomfortable task. Merritt and Company have extensive experience in advising and assisting people with their plans for the future and aim to make the process as simple and stress-free as possible.

1. **Make an Initial Appointment** – The first stage is to simply arrange an appointment at a time and date most convenient to you.
2. **Attend your first appointment** – During this appointment, you will discuss your wishes with a Solicitor who will take the relevant details and instructions from you. Depending on how complex your estate or wishes are, this appointment will usually take between 20 to 45 minutes.
3. **Draft Wills** - After your appointment you will then receive your draft Will along with an explanation of the contents and any legal jargon. Once you have had a chance to review your draft Will, you can then contact our office to advise of any amendments required, or else to confirm you are happy with your Will and make a final appointment.
4. **Final Appointment** – We will have your top copy Will ready to be signed and witnessed at our offices. This appointment is usually a lot shorter than your initial appointment as it is simply a case of having your Will signed and any final queries answered. We will then store your original Will at our offices for safekeeping free of charge, and send you a photocopy for your records.