

Services to Individuals

Wills, Trusts and Probate

Why everyone should make a Will

The benefits of making a Will

Making a Will provides you with peace of mind and also helps to make things easier for those who are left behind. Your Will is one of the most important documents you will ever sign.

Who should make a Will?

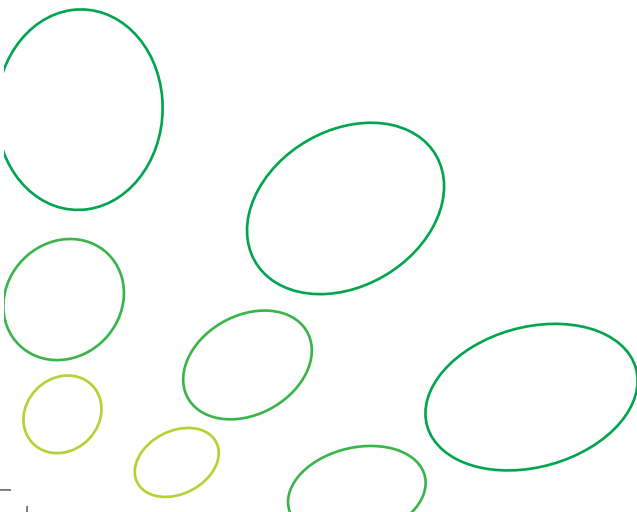
Everyone, but especially anyone who:

- has children under 18 years of age
- has been divorced
- has re-married since last making a Will, because getting married automatically cancels your Will
- is living with a partner but is not married to him or her
- has family members with special needs
- does not wish to leave their estate to their next of kin
- would like to make gifts to charity
- has substantial assets, and wishes to minimise inheritance tax.

By making a Will, you can decide exactly what will happen to your property and assets after your death and who will deal with the administration of your estate. You can also appoint guardians for young children, express wishes about the disposal of your body and in some cases save your beneficiaries from paying unnecessary tax.

What happens if you do not make a Will?

- Everything you leave (called your 'estate') will go to your next of kin according to fixed rules. If you are not married but live with a partner, your partner will not benefit. If you have no relatives, your estate will go to the Crown
- Your personal representatives (who take charge of your estate) are also chosen according to fixed rules. They may not be the people who you would wish to deal with your estate
- Dealing with your affairs may take more time and hence be more costly than if you had made a Will
- The powers of your personal representatives will be those given by Acts of Parliament passed many years ago. It is widely recognised that these powers are no longer adequate, and needless difficulty and expense can arise.



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Wills, Trusts and Probate Department

Throughout its history of 150 years, Walker Smith Way has been advising clients in connection with their private affairs and particularly with Wills, estates and the creation of Trusts. Since Estate Duty was introduced, we have coupled this expertise with specialised and detailed knowledge of related tax affairs. Our services include:

- Preparing simple Wills
- Preparing more complicated Wills including the creation of Trusts, to mitigate tax and protect certain beneficiaries
- Probate of Wills and winding up of estates
- Letters of Administration to deal with estates where no Will exists
- Managing and administering ongoing Will Trusts
- Advising in connection with disputed Wills and litigation
- Applying to the Court where Wills, though valid, fail to make reasonable provision for family and dependants
- Advising on the creation of Trusts for tax, family protection and other purposes
- Establishing Trusts for victims of accidents or other disabled persons
- Creating Powers of Attorney and management of affairs under Powers of Attorney
- Advising on Court of Protection matters
- Preparing living Wills.

Why come to Walker Smith Way?

At Walker Smith Way we believe that a Will is a very important document. Consequently, a Lawyer specialising in Will preparation and inheritance tax advice will go through everything in detail with you and help to clarify your own ideas. We will prepare a Will suited to your individual requirements, taking into account property law and taxation. We will seek to ensure that your Will cannot be challenged after your death.

To discuss making a Will, please ask to speak to one of the Lawyers in our Wills, Trusts and Probate department on Chester 01244 357400 or Wrexham 01978 340400.
