

Getting Your Will Written and Checked

This is a three step process:

Step One - Think about what you want to do for the people and the causes you care about.

Step Two - Write it down in your own words as simply as possible.

Step Three - Give it to me for my input.

Step three is important. If you try writing the will yourself you can easily avoid the pitfalls you know about. But there are likely to be a lot of pitfalls you don't know about. Plus I might know ways of avoiding inheritance tax that you hadn't considered.

The letter to me is not a will. There are a multitude of rules about signatures, witnesses and who will carry out your wishes. I will write your will for you including all the herinafters and heretofores. I'm not just paid to avoid pitfalls and reduce inheritance tax, but to know all the long words too.

The best bit for you is having the fun and warm fuzzy glow of generosity. The best bit for your loved ones is that it is substantially easier and cheaper to sort it all out.

Of course, if you don't make a will, it won't be you that lives to regret it.

About Us

We pride ourselves on providing expert legal advice with a professional but down to earth approach. We start with a chat, free of charge, so you can consider your options. Then we'll help you figure out which solution is best for you and your family.

Contact Us

Phone: 01952 303004

Email: lisa@picassolegal.co.uk

Web: www.picassolegal.co.uk

 @picassolegal

 picassolegal



Business Development Centre, Stafford
Park 4, Telford, Shropshire TF3 3BA

Authorised and regulated by the SRA. No: 622876

HOW TO MAKE WRITING YOUR WILL FUN

Anthony Scott, in his last will wrote: "To my first wife Sue, whom I always promised to mention in my will: "Hello Sue!"

"I wish peace and affluence to all my friends and a piece of effluence to all my enemies"

Jack Benny set aside money to have a rose sent to his wife every day for the rest of her life.



I know what you're thinking...

Making a Will is something people only whisper about, its doom and gloomy and causes premature death. It's about what happens after you die and nobody wants to think about that. We all know that after-death experiences include embarrassed silences and soggy triangle sandwiches. Not fun at all.

But actually, choosing presents for your family is fun! (Think Christmas without cutthroat shopping in overcrowded shops!) And giving to charity creates a warm fuzzy glow inside.

Edith S of Walsall included £50,000 to each of her children, Roger, Helen and Patricia which was not to be spent on "slow horses and fast women and only a very small amount on booze".

Your Estate is the sum total of your possessions. Don't bother calculating how much this is since it will change daily. You can divide everything on a percentage basis and let the lawyers do the maths.

Philip Hall, professor of pure mathematics, managed to make $2+2+5=10$ in his will.

You can leave fixed amounts and stipulate conditions about what they are to be spent on. You might find it very satisfying to stipulate that your gift to a nephew must be spent on travel or study because both expand the mind. Whether his mind actually needs expanding can remain ambiguous.

In Henry Budd's last will and testament he left £200,000 in 1862 in trust for his two sons on the condition that neither grow a moustache.



If you have a will, you are able to make sure that your possessions go to the people who are most likely to appreciate them. Not everyone will receive your complete collection of Star Trek DVDs with the gratitude and respect they merit.

One man left his employer one shilling to buy a book on manners.

It is a nice gesture to return a special gift like a piece of jewellery to the person that gave it to you.

Sara Clarke of Bournemouth said in her will: "To my daughter, I leave £1 – for the kindness and love she has never shown me".

If you haven't made a Will, your estate will be handed out according to intestacy rules. If you think those rules look fine and you don't need to bother with a will, reconsider. Years from now when you run off with a football player, or have a child, or get married, or divorced, or whatever... no will means no choice. If you've got a will, you're more likely to review it than if you've just taken a look at the intestacy rules and thought 'that'll do'.

Roger Morris of Penzance gave £250 for the RNLI "to be spent on a booze-up for the members and helpers of the Penlee lifeboat crew."



Aside from the fact that your beloved collection of porcelain teapots may end up with some beast of a cousin who doesn't appreciate them, consider:

1. It takes much longer to deal with an intestacy than a will.
2. A common-law husband or wife is not recognised because there is no such relationship in law. You have a stronger legal relationship with your lodger than your partner. And separation is not treated in the same way as divorce. **So the spouse you separated from years ago could inherit the house that you share with your partner. But the tenant may still have rights to live there.**
3. The people that apply intestacy rules are robots and don't deviate EVER. If you have a long-lost cousin somewhere in Timbuctoo, who inherits under the rules, that person must be found. If they died but had children, they will all have to be found. And so on. It can take years. For someone you would never have included in your will.