

## YOUR LOCAL SOLICITORS



**ANDERSON LONGMORE & HIGHAM**  
SOLICITORS

### How will a Solicitor help me?

Your Will is an important legal document and needs to be written by a qualified professional. As Solicitors, we are uniquely placed to offer unbiased, confidential advice, experience, security and personal service and usually we will be able to complete matters quickly and easily.

There are circumstances when more detailed planning is needed and we have the resources to provide the right advice. For example, advice on Inheritance Tax, trusts and other financial matters where substantial savings could benefit your family.

A Solicitor can also act as your Executor (the person who takes responsibility for administering your estate after death) if you wish. This can ease the distress of relatives and friends and ensures that your wishes are carried out fully and smoothly. As executors we can:-

- Arrange your funeral
- Identify assets and arrange valuation
- Pay outstanding debts
- Claim the benefits or exemptions and if applicable, release from Inheritance Tax
- Pay Taxes due
- Obtain Probate
- Ensure that relatives, friends or charities receive exactly what they are entitled to.

When circumstances change through marriage, divorce, having children, buying or selling your home, we can advise you if you need to alter your Will. We can tell you if you need to make a new Will or simply make an amendment ('codicil') - You should not alter an existing Will yourself or attach anything to it.

HAVE YOU MADE A WILL?

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## Why should I make a Will?



As someone who cares about the welfare of your family and friends, you will want to ensure that your money and possessions ('estate') are distributed as you would wish, when you die.

A Will is a legal document and must be properly worded and kept up-to-date if it is to be legally effective. Making a

Will not only keeps your affairs in order, it also enables you to leave large or small gifts to anyone you choose, and to set out any particular wishes you may have concerning your funeral or memorial.

It is particularly important if you have young children that you ensure that they will be cared for by using a Will to appoint guardians and establish trust funds to look after their financial needs.

## What if I don't make a Will?

If you die without making a Will ('intestate'), arbitrary rules decide who will receive your estate. This can be unfair to certain relatives and cause them unnecessary distress.

## Can I make my own Will?

Yes, but a Will is a legal document and can be more complicated than you think; without professional advice, there is a danger that you may leave room for misinterpretation and arguments. The best thing is to make a list of your assets and who you would like to leave them to, and let us help you.

## How much will it cost?

The majority of Wills are straightforward and the cost of making one is usually not high especially when compared to the heartache and confusion that could be caused after your death if you don't have a Will or have left an ambiguous "home-made" one. We will be happy to provide you with an estimate of costs at the outset, without obligation.

Most importantly of all, a properly drafted and up-to-date Will means that your family and friends can be provided for, as you intended, after your death.

The cost of us acting as your executor will vary according to the size of your estate and the amount of work needed to be done but our fees are usually less than those of Bank Executor or Trust Companies.



## What should I do now?

Whether you are considering making a Will for the first time or reviewing your existing Will, you can make an appointment to discuss your needs either at our offices or in your own home if required.

Before you talk to us, it is a good idea to make a list of your assets and who you would like to leave bequests to. To help you, please use the following checklist to value your assets:-

### House / Land

· £ \_\_\_\_\_

### Car

· £ \_\_\_\_\_

### Jewellery

· £ \_\_\_\_\_

### Furniture

· £ \_\_\_\_\_

### Insurance Policies

· £ \_\_\_\_\_

### Stocks / Shares

· £ \_\_\_\_\_

### Bank / Building Societies

· £ \_\_\_\_\_

### Value of any business

· £ \_\_\_\_\_

### Other

· £ \_\_\_\_\_