



## How to make a will

With a will in place, you can rest assured that all your property and possessions go to the people you love



# Coodes Solicitors

## Introduction

---

There are many legal formalities that must be followed in order to make a will valid and legal. That is why the best advice and guidance available is from a solicitor. By having a will in place, you can rest assured that all your property and possessions go to the people you love.

## Our service is built around you

---

We listen to what you want and work with you - it is all about you and your life and ensuring that the people and causes you care about are still looked after when you have gone. We have friendly legal experts who you can talk to confidentially.

## What will Coodes need to know?

---

We want you to think about what you own and write it down, e.g. your home, car, furniture and other possessions. You may also have sentimental items, that are not necessarily valuable but are very precious to you and your family, that you want to give to specific people.

## Beneficiaries

---

We will need to have details of the people you wish to benefit from your will. We will also need details of your family and marital status to provide you with the best advice on who could expect to share in your estate when you die. Many people are unaware that co-habiting partners are not recognised legally and can be left with nothing if they are not specifically provided for in the will.

There may be others who are financially dependent on you, who you would still want to provide for after death, such as children or elderly parents.

## Guardians

---

If you have children, you will need to consider who you wish to take care of them in the event of your death, as legal guardian. This may be a friend or family member.

## **Executors**

---

These are people you select to act for you after your death, who are responsible for the terms of your will being complied with. They must be over 18 and will have legal responsibilities to collect in your assets, pay any debts such as your funeral bill, and then distribute your assets to those people named in your will. Somebody who is to benefit under a will can also be an executor.

## **Charitable giving**

---

Like many people, you may feel you would like to leave a legacy to a charity that has been special to you. Any gift to charity is free of tax and can make a big difference to their cause. Giving is simple – all we need to know is the name of the charity you favour and we will take care of the rest.

## **Is it difficult to make a will?**

---

We aim to make the process of making your will as straightforward as possible. Have a look at the will planning document (at the back of this brochure), fill it in and bring it along to your first appointment. A dedicated legal expert will be assigned to you and will be your main point of contact. They will listen to your wishes and answer any questions. Our fixed fees enable you to know exactly what you will be paying up front with no hidden extras, and we will store your will for free.

## **What if you don't make a will?**

---

People assume that if they do not make a will everything will work out okay and that their money and property will automatically go to their family. Unfortunately this is not always the case. If you die without leaving a will, the law dictates who inherits what you leave.

## **Updating your will**

---

If your circumstances change and you are not sure if your will needs updating, just give us a call and we will advise you.

## What if I am an executor?

We can also help you with probate and estate administration. Probate refers to applying for the right to administer the estate. Administering the estate means dealing with a deceased person's possessions, as instructed by their will. Our team of experienced lawyers can help you with all aspects of being an executor, from applying for probate through to complex inheritance tax cases. We will explain everything in plain English and provide all the support you need.

## Will disputes

Sometimes close members of the family or dependants may contest a will. Or, it may be you that wishes to contest a will. Either way, it can often be upsetting and distressing for all involved. Our specialist dispute solicitors understand the emotions involved, can provide reassurance and will assess the situation.

If you would like to contest a will ask for our probate dispute specialists on 01726 874700.





## A small investment now can mean peace of mind for the future

If you would like to talk to us about making your will, or if you think yours might be out of date, please get in touch. Our friendly team are here to answer any questions.

Visit the website for more information – [codes.co.uk](http://codes.co.uk)

To make an appointment, call your nearest office:

**St. Austell** 01726 874700

**Truro** 01872 246200

**Newquay** 01637 878111

**Liskeard** 01579 347600

**Launceston** 01566 770000

**Penzance** 01736 362294

**Holsworthy** 01409 253425





# Will planning document

This form has been designed to help you think about your family and friends, your possessions and what you would like to happen to them after you have died. Please bring this form in when you come to see us.

**Work out the approximate value of your estate.** Work out the value of your assets (A) and then the cost of your liabilities (B)

## A Estimating the value of your assets

For assets you own jointly with another person, only include the value of your share

Type of asset	Approximate value
Your home	£
Other land or property	£
Cars and other vehicles	£
House contents	£
Jewellery	£
Money in banks and building societies	£
Shares/investments	£
Insurance/pensions	£
National Savings, Premium Bonds	£
Other savings and investments	£
<b>TOTAL ASSETS (A)</b>	£

## B Estimating the cost of your liabilities

For joint liabilities with another person, only include the value of your share

Type of liability	Value
Your outstanding mortgage	£
Any credit or hire purchase agreements	£
Loans or overdrafts	£
Credit cards	£
Other	£
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES (B)</b>	£

**A Total assets** £ \_\_\_\_\_

**B Total liabilities** £ \_\_\_\_\_

A minus B = the total value of your estate

**TOTAL VALUE OF YOUR ESTATE** £ \_\_\_\_\_

**Keep your documents safe.** Use the space below to make a note of the location of all your important documents etc.

Document	Location
Your will	
Birth certificate	
Marriage/divorce details	
Property/mortgage deeds	
Pensions/insurance details	
Bank/building society details	
Others	

## Looking after your will

Your will is a legally binding document so you should make sure it's kept in a safe and secure place. Many people choose to leave it with their solicitor or at their bank. Whatever you choose, it's a good idea to keep a copy in your possession. Make sure your executors and your family know where to find it, as well as the name of your solicitor.

Please use the notes section overleaf if you need more space.



# Some considerations for making your will...

Use the space below to make notes and bring it with you when you come to see us.



## **Who would you like to be your executors?** *(see page 4)*

Full name & address of each

## **Do you need a guardian for your children?** *(see page 3)*

Full name & address of guardians

## **Who will be your beneficiaries and what do you want them each to receive?** *(see page 3)*

Full name & address of each

## **Fixed sums of money** *(pecuniary legacies)*

Amount to be given, full name & address of each person / charity / organisation

## **Items** *(specific legacies)*

Item to be given, full name & address of each person / charity / organisation

## **What is left** *(other legacies)*

Percentage, full name & address of each person / charity / organisation

## **My wishes**

Please list any other wishes known, e.g. funeral arrangements, care arrangements for pets, donations to charities in lieu of flowers at funeral etc

