



If you need further assistance or have questions, email nicola.weldon@gotelee.co.uk

Understanding our work and our fees

Why make a Will?

Whether it is a superstitious fear that thinking about death will bring it closer, or whether it is just one of those tasks that never makes it to the top of the list, a Will is one of those things that everyone should have; and yet only about a third of people ever bother.

None of us like to think about our own death, but when it happens your property and affairs will need to be dealt with. By making a Will, you can ensure they are dealt with by the individuals and in the way that you would want.

Appointing guardians for your children is also an important reason to make a Will; making sure that those children are provided for both legally, emotionally and financially.

If you are worried about paying for care home fees or paying inheritance tax on your estate, taking advice and making a Will can assist with both of these facts of life and will hopefully alleviate those worries.

Who would be my executor?

An executor is the person who will be responsible for looking after your affairs when you die. It is important that you choose someone who you know and trust. If there is no one who you feel would be able to do this for you, then Gotelee would be pleased to act as your executor, either alone or jointly with a friend or relative.

It is a common misheld belief that a beneficiary can't also be an executor, they can. As long as your executor is over the age of eighteen, is of sound mind and is someone that you trust, then the choice is yours.

Everything will go to my nearest relative anyway...

Not necessarily. You may think that when you die your next of kin, for example, your husband, wife or child, will automatically receive the whole of your estate. This is not always so and is this really a risk you are happy to take?

If you die without a Will, your estate will be divided in accordance with the laws of intestacy, which may not reflect your wishes. For example, in the case of someone who dies leaving a husband or wife and children, the husband or wife can find that they are sharing the estate with the children, which might not be ideal.

Co-habitation, divorce and re-marriage are all increasingly common and without a valid Will there is no automatic right for a cohabitee to benefit from your estate.

I have nothing to leave...

Are you sure? You don't need to be wealthy to need a Will. If you own your house or have life assurance policies, investments, building society accounts and shares, those assets alone could be worth several hundred or thousand of pounds.

In making a Will you are choosing the people you would like to help administer your estate and you are choosing who you would like to leave your money or belongings to, however small. If you would prefer to benefit a charity then a Will is a great way to ensure they will benefit on your death.

How do I make a Will?

A Will has to comply with a number of important rules to make it a valid document. It isn't as easy as writing something on a bit of paper or even buying a do-it-yourself kit. It is very easy to make a mistake which can result in invalidating the Will.

If you are making a Will you will want to ensure that you have had all the options explained to you, you have considered any tax consequences and you have received the best possible advice. We can provide this advice at Gotelee and can meet with you either in one of our offices or at your home.

I have written my own Will

Making your own Will is a risky business. If there are any issues that are not clear you will not be around to tell everyone what you really meant to say. The end result may be that either your Will fails to do what you expected it would do or that it simply does not stand up legally. It is safer to take a solicitor's advice and have the peace of mind that comes from knowing that your estate will be dealt with as you wished.

Making a Will is complicated and expensive

Nothing could be further from the truth. A standard basic Will can be prepared quickly and inexpensively by our team of lawyers. If your estate is more complicated, we can advise you of the best way to arrange your affairs so as to cause as few problems as possible for your executors and beneficiaries.

Please remember that all details of our fees and disbursements will be given to you, as well as our terms and conditions, prior to the commencement of any work on your behalf. Gotelee is very proud of the Fixed Price Promise which means no surprises.