



# Harland & Co

SOLICITORS

## **Where there's a Will there's a way: the importance of making a Will**

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A Will is one of the most important legal documents that you will ever write but it is all too easy to put it off.

This leaflet will tell you why you should make a Will, what you need to know before making one for the first time and why you should keep it up to date.



A Will is one of the most important legal documents that you will ever write but it is all too easy to put it off. Recent research has shown that two-thirds of us don't have one and those that have haven't reviewed it for some time.

### **Why should I make a Will?**

Making a Will allows you not only to provide for your family's future but also to specify exactly where you want your money and possessions to go. It enables you to decide who will be responsible for sorting out your affairs and who will act as guardians for your minor children.

### **What happens if I don't have a Will?**

When someone dies it is a popular misconception that their loved ones will automatically inherit. In the absence of a Will there are strict guidelines that determine inheritance and this may not be how you would have wanted your money and possessions to be divided. If you are married your spouse may not automatically receive the whole of your estate. If you are living together but not married your partner is unlikely to receive anything if you do not have a Will.

### **What should my Will include?**

Your Will should appoint executors to deal with the administration of your estate, guardians (if you have children) and name beneficiaries either to receive specific items or the whole, or part, of your

