



Wills and Estate Planning

Why do I need a Will

- So that you can ensure that the right person(s) inherit your property or money
- So that you can choose the most appropriate person(s) to deal with your affairs after you die (your executors)
- You can appoint guardians to look after any children who are under 18
- A carefully drafted Will can reduce or prevent an inheritance tax liability and protect your assets from a claim by others.

What if I don't make a Will

- Your estate will be dealt with under the law of intestacy, which means that your assets will be inherited by your closest living relatives.
- If you are married or in a civil partnership and have children your husband/wife/civil partner will only be entitled to receive £250,000 and all personal possessions and currently a life interest (a right to the income only) in one half of the remainder of the estate. (This entitlement is due to change later in 2014 so that the spouse/civil partner will receive a half share absolutely.) The children will share the other half of the residue between them.

Therefore if the deceased spouse/civil partner owns the property in his/her sole name, it is not necessarily the case that the surviving spouse will receive the whole property as part of their entitlement.

- If you have no spouse or children – the government sets out in a strict order those relatives who will receive a share in your estate. It is entirely possible that your wealth may pass to relatives who are no longer in touch with you.
- The law of intestacy does not permit any benefits to pass to friends or charities.
- If no relatives can be found then your estate would pass to the Crown.

Wills & Trusts Services

- Wills & Estate Planning
- Lasting Powers of Attorney & Registration of Enduring Powers of Attorney
- Trusts
- Deeds of Variation
- Probate & Administration of Estates Service
- Court of Protection applications

For further information on our Wills & Trusts services please contact:

Rebecca Stringfellow

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T: 01925 765212

www.dootsons.co.uk

Offices

Leigh
Culcheth
Newton



STEP members

Rebecca Stringfellow



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Wills & Trusts

Wills and Estate Planning

What if I don't make a Will - continued

- The law of intestacy does not enable you to have a say in who deals with your estate. Your estate would be dealt with by one or more of the relatives entitled to your estate.
- If you die intestate you have no opportunity to take advantage of the tax saving opportunities which can benefit your estate if you make a Will.
- If you have minor children there may be a dispute between relatives about who will care for them.

Other services Dootsons can help you with

- Family
- Mediation
- Residential Conveyancing
- Employment
- Litigation
- Commercial

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Society of Trust and
Estate Practitioners



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