

There are many good reasons to make a will, not least the peace of mind gained from knowing that your possessions will be distributed as you wish.

Writing a Will enables you to plan what will happen to your money and possessions (your estate), so you can live the rest of your life without worrying about the future.



Making a valid Will

Dying intestate (without leaving a Will) would cause those who will have to deal with your affairs a lot of problems, because they may not be sure of how you want your estate distributed after your death.

Certain requirements must be met for a Will to be valid:

- It must be in writing
- It must be signed and witnessed
- you must be over 18 when you make it
- you must have the mental capacity to make the will and understand the effect it will have
- you must not have made it as a result of pressure from someone else.

The beginning of the Will should state that this Will revokes all others. If you have an earlier Will it should be destroyed.

Unless your Will is going to be very simple it is advisable to consult a solicitor, especially if you intend to leave significant sums to people other than those who might expect to inherit; or if you own foreign property or a business. The cost of making a Will varies according to its complexity.

If you are considering making a Will we have factsheets to help you in preparing: Factsheet No. 7 – Making a Will, and also Factsheet No 14 which is helpful for those dealing with an estate.

We also have a Age UK booklet 'Wills and estate planning' which gives useful information.

Or if you prefer we have a form on which you can make your wishes known about the type of service you want etc. which is useful so that you can leave this information for your family to use after your death.

Please call in to the Age Concern Thurrock office at the Beehive in Grays for a copy of any of the above, or phone us on 01375 389872 and we will post one to you.

We will also be pleased to give you contact numbers for local solicitors who will be able to prepare a Will on your behalf.