

Your Legal Questions

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Q. I know I need a Will but surely I can make my own?

A. You can write your own Will but even in the most straightforward cases, serious mistakes can be made and your family may need a great deal of assistance sorting out the mess left behind. I have come across a number of cases where the person who wrote the Will was no doubt very clear in his mind as to what he intended but unfortunately the wording used was open to differing interpretations resulting in great expense and delay resolving the issue. Sadly in such cases there is never any certainty that the true wishes are being followed and one party will feel aggrieved.

Even if you manage to write your Will perfectly without any ambiguity or uncertainty there are strict requirements which must be observed. For example it is very important that your signature is properly witnessed by appropriate witnesses - there are restrictions as to who is appropriate. There are also restrictions relating to the signing and witnessing procedure. Even a small error could result in your Will being invalid. In addition various events will have a bearing upon your Will and may significantly change its effect or validity for example divorce or subsequent marriage.

A simple Will can be prepared at relatively low cost by a qualified solicitor and the peace of mind that this brings; knowing that your wishes will be followed makes it a price well worth paying.

A solicitor who specialises in Wills can advise you how best to achieve your wishes, point out any difficulties and suggest ways of dealing with them.

Seeking to avoid a relatively modest expense could cost your loved ones dear in the long run.

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