

Your Legal Questions

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Q Do I really need to make a Will?

A In nearly all circumstances the answer would be yes. No one likes to think about death or the effect on those left behind. Often people think they are too young or not rich enough or assume their wishes will be automatically catered for. If you don't make a Will your assets will be distributed in a way that you may not wish especially in the following cases:

- You are married or in a civil partnership and have children and wish your spouse/civil partner to inherit all of your estate
- You are living together but not married or in a civil partnership and wish your partner to inherit some or all of your estate
- You have no living relatives and wish to leave your estate to your friends or a charity
- You are married or in a civil partnership and you don't wish your spouse/civil partner to inherit anything
- You are married or in a civil partnership but have no children
- You are married or in a civil partnership and have children from a previous relationship whom you wish to benefit
- You have dependant relatives such as children under 18, elderly relatives or relatives with a disability who have special needs and you want to make sure they are looked after and provided for
- Your estate is large and you are concerned about Inheritance Tax

So if you want to control who will deal with your estate and to whom your assets will pass following your death it is essential that you do make a Will. A simple Will can be prepared at relatively low cost by a qualified solicitor and the cost of doing nothing may be considerably greater.

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