

Your Legal Questions

Jenny Brading
Solicitor



Q. I made my Will 8 years ago. Does it need updating? How often should I review it?

A. For most people making a Will isn't a once in a lifetime event. Circumstances and family relationships will change and for that reason I do recommend that your Will should be reviewed at least every five years. This doesn't mean that you need a new Will every five years but you should read through your Will and check that it still complies with your wishes. In certain situations you may need a new Will for example:

- Change in relationships: if you have married, entered into a civil partnership, started co-habiting, divorced, separated, had a civil partnership dissolved, been widowed or are a surviving civil partner.
- Family: if you have become a parent, grandparent, or children have entered your life through a new relationship and you would like them to benefit.
- Bereavement: if one of your main beneficiaries or someone named in your Will dies.
- Change in your financial situation: sometimes it is necessary to review your Will if your assets change or increase significantly. Does your existing Will include any specific gifts that you no longer own?
- No Longer Accurately Reflects your Wishes: The main objective of a Will is to represent and communicate your wishes after you have died. If your Will no longer does this then you should update it.

Q. If on a review there is a very minor change or addition needed do I always need to incur the expense of a complete new Will?

A. Not necessarily - minor changes can often be accommodated in a Codicil. This is a relatively short and inexpensive document that acts as a supplement to the original Will and sets out the changes. Don't be afraid to ask whether a Codicil would be appropriate.

Jenny Brading is a Solicitor & Trust and Estates Practitioner and a member of Solicitors for the Elderly

Direct dial 01934 637931

brading@powellslaw.com