

## Basic elements of a will

A will must:-

- Be in writing, signed and dated by the person making the will plus 2 witnesses who must not be beneficiaries or married to someone who is a beneficiary.
- Show clear details of who will receive your property and/or possessions.
- Name suitable executors who will see that your wishes are complied with.

## Other things you might want to think about...

- Wider financial planning
- Organ donation
- Making a funeral plan
- 5 things you want to do before you die
- Powers of attorney
- Your future care

## Useful contacts / websites

### Cheshire East Citizens Advice Bureau

08444 111 444

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

### Law Society of England and Wales

020 7242 1222

[www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk)

### Solicitors for the Elderly

0844 567 6173

[www.solicitorsfortheelderly.com](http://www.solicitorsfortheelderly.com)

### Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners

(STEP)

020 7340 0500

[www.step.org](http://www.step.org)



Produced on behalf of the  
Cheshire Living Well Dying Well Partnership.

We value your feedback. All comments to:  
**End of life Public Health Team**  
01270 758120  
[publichealth@eolp.org.uk](mailto:publichealth@eolp.org.uk)  
Winterley Grange, Unit 8, Wheelock Heath  
Business Court, Alsager Road, Winterley  
CW11 4RQ  
[www.cheshirelivingwelldyingwell.org.uk](http://www.cheshirelivingwelldyingwell.org.uk)

If you do write a will as a result of reading this leaflet we'd particularly like to hear from you.



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01606 863464

# Will Writing . . .

# . . . Misconceptions



"This is a fine time to remind me we haven't made a will."



Cheshire  
Living Well | Dying Well  
Partnership

# Misconceptions

## **I've got nothing worth leaving**

*Wills are not just about money and possessions.*

You might:-

- Have children or pets and want to say who you want to look after them.
- Have your own business and want to take care of your employees' future.
- Want to pass on 'gems' of wisdom or messages to your family.



## **I'm too young to make a will**

- Life is uncertain – accidents or illness can strike at any time.
- It is easier to prepare in good times when life is less stressful.
- You can make a will if you are 18 or over and understand what you are doing.
- Research shows that writing a will can give you peace of mind.



## **I'm in debt but that gets cancelled when I die anyway**

- Debts don't die with you.
- Your debts will be paid before your loved ones receive anything.

## **Everything will go to my partner/family anyway**

- Unless you have been through a legal ceremony like marriage or civil partnership, partners and friends have no entitlement to inherit without a will.
- Without a will, assets of more than £250,000 may be divided between members of the family in proportions that you wouldn't wish for.
- Without a will, your partner may be left homeless if you own /part own their home.

## **It's depressing and I don't want to tempt fate**

None of us like to contemplate our own mortality, but there is no evidence that writing a will invites bad luck!

## **It's really complicated, time-consuming and costly**

*'I couldn't believe it was so easy. It only took about half an hour' (J Hardiman, Winsford)*

- The cost will vary dependent on the complexity of your circumstances.
- Solicitors have special offers from time to time and will give a no obligation quotation if you call.
- Many solicitors will offer a short free consultation during which they can advise you of the cost. They can quickly tell whether it will be a straight forward or complex will.
- Charities frequently run will campaigns.
- Look out for special offers during Will Aid week.

## **Other reasons to make a will**

- To have your say giving peace of mind for you and your family.
- To avoid family disputes/upsets and legal headaches.
- To give someone you love an opportunity e.g. a holiday, wedding, business opportunity or university education.
- To remember the kindness of a friend or give support to a charity.
- You have been married before and / or have step children.
- To reduce the chance of a large tax bill for your family.

## **Value of professional advice**

- It's possible to write a valid will without advice, but it's easy to make disastrous mistakes.
- Professional advice can give you reassurance that you have created a valid document and that your wishes will be accurately carried out.
- If you have difficulty getting out, most solicitors can do home visits.

