

Signing your Will



THE WILL
COMPANY

What you leave behind, matters



Signing your Will

Your Will becomes a legally valid and binding document as soon as it has been signed correctly.

There are certain formal procedures that you have to follow to make your Will legally valid. If your Will is invalid then your estate may not pass as you intend. The execution of your Will involves three people:

- You
- Two witnesses

You must be present throughout the process.

Your signature must be witnessed by two other people who must be present with you as you sign.

Witnesses **MUST NOT BE BENEFICIARIES**. Witnesses must **NOT** be the **SPOUSE** of a beneficiary. Witnesses should not be related to you in any way. Nobody who may benefit from your Will can be allowed to act as a witness. If this happens any legacy or benefit they may receive will be **LOST** and become part of the remaining estate.

The witnesses are only confirming that it is your signature - they do not need to read the Will and all other clauses can be covered up if required.

Witnesses should also be sure that you know what you are doing - they must be confident that you have **READ** your Will and that you are **SOBER** and of **SOUND MIND**.

Witnesses are also confirming that the signature is **YOUR CHOICE** - there must be no question of any outside influence persuading you to sign.

Your witnesses should be aged 18 years or over and be UK citizens.

Signing with Testators who are **BLIND** or **INFIRM** requires special arrangements and additional instructions can be supplied in such cases.

Sample signatures

As the Testator you must write in the date followed by your normal signature. The date can be written in the simple form shown. It is not necessary to include further details about you because you have been identified by your address or occupation at the beginning of the Will.

Attestation

Dated this 7th day of JULY Two Thousand and SEVEN

SIGNED by the above named John Smith
as and for his last Will in our presence and
then by us in his

J. Smith
Signature of Testator

S. Jones
Signature of first Witness

SIMON JONES
Full names of first Witness

PRINTER
Occupation

24 HIGH STREET

ANYTOWN

Address of first Witness

J. Jones
Signature of second Witness

JOHN JONES
Full names of second Witness

ELECTRICIAN
Occupation

64 HIGH STREET

ANYTOWN

Address of second Witness.

Witnesses are only required to add their signatures. Although it is not strictly necessary in England and Wales, it is a good idea for witnesses to also identify themselves by printing in their name, address and occupation as shown.

For the future

Your present Will remains a legally valid and binding document until you marry, write another Will or decide to deliberately destroy the present document. We recommend that you review your Will at least every three years. Personal and family circumstances change and it is important that your Will still expresses your wishes in the light of such changes.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE.

If any amendments are necessary, it is better to return the document to us for alteration. If for any reason this is impractical, then the amendment should be made before you sign and then both you and your witnesses should initial the amendment. No alterations should be made after the Will is signed.

DO NOT PIN OR CLIP ANY LETTER OR NOTE TO YOUR WILL.

Where to keep your Will

STORE SAFE
In safe hands

Independent storage of your Will is very important. We recommend that for security and peace of mind you make use of Store Safe a secure storage facility available through us. Visit www.storesafeuk.co.uk. To retrieve your Will simply call our office. In the event of your death, your Executors can retrieve your Will by providing their proof of identity and a copy of your death certificate. Executors need to be kept informed of the whereabouts of your Will. By storing your Will with us, you become entitled to unlimited free re-writes at no extra cost. This enables you to easily keep your Will up to date.

Services we offer:

Wills

Estate Protection Trust Wills

Severance of Tenancy

Powers of Attorney

Prepaid Funeral Plans

Probate & Executor Services

Storage of Wills and Other Valuable Documents

Lifetime Trusts

Free Re-writes Available

Advance Directives

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