

WHAT YOU NEED
TO KNOW ABOUT

Starting Your Will... an introduction

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As a first step, we recommend discussing your wishes with a loved one. By writing down your wishes, your loved ones can be guided in the event something happened to you.

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What Should I Write in My Will?

Most wills include the following information:

- who you want to benefit from your will
- who should look after any children under 18
- who is going to sort out your estate and carry out your wishes after your death (known as your executor)
- what happens if the people you want to benefit, die before you
- your burial requirements (including any religious considerations)

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Do You Need A Solicitor To Write Your Will?

The short answer is no. You can write your own Will. But, in order for it to be a legally valid document, it will need to be formally witnessed by two people. Also, if your estate is not straightforward, you may wish to speak to a solicitor. For example (this is not an exhaustive list):

- if you have a business or complex finances
- if you share a property with someone who is not your husband, wife or civil partner
- if you have several family members who may make a claim on your will, such as a second spouse or children from another marriage
- if you have property overseas

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Who Can Witness Your Will?

If you would like a legally valid Will, you will need two witnesses. You should choose people who are independent.

- They cannot be related to you
- They must be over 18 years of age
- They cannot be a beneficiary of the Will (or related by blood, marriage or civil partnership to the beneficiary)
- An executor can witness the Will as long as they are not a beneficiary

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Please note this information does not replace legal advice. If you would like to draft a legally valid Will, please contact our office on 01274 727373.

For further information, visit our website www.skblawfirm.co.uk or book your 15 min free consultation.

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