

MAKING A WILL

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

You will need to give some thought to a number of factors before making arrangements to draw up your Will. Amongst the most important of these are:

Executors

An executor is a person, appointed by you, to see that your wishes are carried out after your death. An executor:

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Could be someone who is also named as a beneficiary under the Will
- Can be your spouse or partner, your son or daughter, other relative, friend or professional adviser such as your solicitor

You may appoint sole or several executors to act jointly. Many people choose a close family member or friend along with a professional adviser to act jointly.

Guardianship

If you have children (under 18) you should consider who you would want to bring them up in the event of your death.

Beneficiaries

Whom do you wish to benefit from your estate?

- a) **Cash sums** – Do you wish to leave specific sums to grandchildren, other relatives, guardians, friends, neighbours or charities?
- b) **Specific Gifts** – Are there any specific articles or items (e.g. jewellery, books) to be left to specific individuals?
- c) **Main Beneficiaries** - who is to receive the remainder of your estate after specific cash sums and/or gifts, have been distributed?

Prior Death(s) of Beneficiaries

It is possible that one or more of your main beneficiaries may die before you. In that case who would you like to benefit instead?

If all your main beneficiaries die before you in an accident how would you like your estate to be divided?

Your Assets

It is not necessary to prepare a detailed list of all your assets, but it is helpful for us to have a broad idea of what money and other assets your estate will contain

Other Matters

- If your house or other property is in joint names, do you know the type of joint ownership? In the case of a house or land it may be a 'joint tenancy' or 'tenancy in common' and reference to the deeds may be necessary.
- Do you know exactly who will be entitled to payment under any life assurance/insurance policies or pension arrangements? This may be governed by separate rules in the policies or pension scheme and not controlled by your Will. If you are in doubt we can look at the documents for you.
- If there are any members of your immediate family or other dependents whom you wish to exclude from your Will it may be useful to set down reasons.
- Funeral arrangements – do you wish to record in your Will any directions about your funeral (e.g. burial or cremation)?
- Your pets – if you have any pets you may wish to specify what you want to happen to them after you have died

