



The Creighton Centre

A rough guide to making a Will



Whatever your age, it is important to make a Will as soon as possible to ensure that your family, friends and/or charities are provided for when you are no longer around.

If you want to leave a bequest in your Will to Bishop Creighton House then you are also leaving a legacy that safeguards the future of older people. A donation to us, or any charity, is free of inheritance tax so every penny you give goes to help others. It is also a way of saying thank you.

What happens if you don't have a Will

If you die without making a valid Will, what you own (the estate) must be shared out according to certain rules and you can't assume this will automatically be the people closest to you. These are called the rules of intestacy.

A Will also sets out your wishes regarding your treasured possessions, and whether there are people (family, friends, neighbours, others) to whom you want to leave something that will remind them of you. It can also include what arrangements you want for your funeral.

Remember, it can be a distressing time for your nearest and dearest without the added burden of uncertainty over your last wishes, and particularly important if you have a number of family members who will have to make decisions quickly at a stressful time.

Tax

Making a Will applies whether you own a property or not. If you do own a property you need to keep in mind that the value of it is included in your estate, and that the estate will be subject to inheritance tax which means that the amount over the current threshold of £325,000 (for a single person which will

rise each year) will be taxed. Given London's property values, it's not difficult to be above the threshold.

Leaving a gift

By leaving a gift to us, you help leave something behind that will be used to make a real difference to peoples' lives including older people. It can also be used to help people with learning disabilities as well as disadvantaged low-income families with young children, many of whom are disabled.

So how do you go about making a Will?

The best thing to do is to seek advice from a solicitor. Yes, it may seem daunting, but it will be the simplest and easiest thing to do in the long run. Making a Will doesn't have to be complicated or difficult. A good solicitor will listen to you and help you every step of the way. They will explain things clearly, because they will want to know that you understand fully what you are doing.

Local solicitors will either visit you at home, speak to you over the phone, or you can visit them at their offices. You may wish to have a family member, neighbour or friend with you, but you don't have to.

Who to contact

Solicitors for the Elderly (SFE) is an independent, national organisation of solicitors that provides specialist legal advice for older and vulnerable people, their families and carers. You may ring them for information about solicitors near you.

Mr David Tagg

Solicitor

David Tagg & Co

Tel: 020 7736 0999

119 Harwood Road

London SW6 4QL

Mrs Suzanne Mynors or Mr Roger

Crouch - Solicitor

Simpson Miller LLP

Tel: **0345 357 9500**

25-29 High Street

Kingston-upon-Thames KT1 1LL

Once you speak to a solicitor, they will give you an indication of the cost of making your Will, but it is usually a couple of hundred pounds plus VAT for a simple Will, and more for a complex Will. After speaking to a solicitor, you do not need to proceed if you don't want to. You will not be charged for making an enquiry.

You can discuss with the solicitor whether you should visit the solicitor in his/her office or whether the solicitor can visit you in your home.

You can also ring **Solicitors for the Elderly** on 0844 567 6173 or find a longer list of solicitors at solicitorsfortheelderly.com

There are also free will services e.g. freewillsmonth.org.uk.

Further help

If you do have any questions, let us know. We can help in general terms (only) if you are having a problem getting hold of a solicitor, or have more questions.

We can be contacted on **020 7385 9689** ask for Homeline (or press 1 when asked).