

Making A Will

If you do decide to support Martin House in this very special and unique way please ensure these details are mentioned in your Will:

- Martin House, Grove Road, Clifford, Wetherby, LS23 6TX.
- Telephone: 01937 845045 or 844569
- Registered Charity No. 517919

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER WHEN MAKING YOUR WILL

1. CHOOSE A GOOD SOLICITOR

It is not expensive to make a Will, nor is it too complicated or time-consuming, but it is important that it is executed properly. A 'home made' Will may be sufficient in a simple case, but it is best to go to a solicitor and get reliable professional advice to suit your own circumstances.

2. APPOINT AN EXECUTOR

Every Will needs an executor – a person appointed by you in your Will, to ensure that all of your wishes are carried out when you die. Often it is wise to appoint two executors, just in case one of them is unable to act for you.

You should ask someone you trust to be the executor of your Will. As an executor can also be a beneficiary, you can appoint your wife or your husband to be your executor. Grown up sons or daughters are other obvious choices.

Alternatively, you can ask a professional person such as your solicitor, accountant or bank manager to be your executor. Someone like this will charge a fee, so it is advisable to ask about charges before you decide.

3. WHAT TO DO BEFORE YOU SEE YOUR SOLICITOR

You can save time and money by getting a few facts and figures ready before you go to see your solicitor.

FIRSTLY write down the names and addresses of all the people (including any charities) you wish to benefit.

You can benefit them in either of two ways: you can leave them what is known as a SPECIFIC LEGACY – that is a definite sum of money, item or piece of property. Or you can leave them a RESIDUAL LEGACY – that is a legacy consisting of all or part of what is left of your estate after all debts, costs and specific legacies have been paid.

If you are married, any possessions which are jointly owned such as a car, furniture, pictures and books will automatically go to the survivor. However, if you want your own personal possessions to go to other people, you should give your solicitor an exact description of them, so that they can be specifically mentioned in the Will.

4. HAVE YOUR WILL WITNESSED

When your Will is drawn up, and you agree with the result, it will need to be properly signed and witnessed. Two witnesses are needed and you must all sign in each other's presence. The witnesses must be people who have nothing to gain from the Will. This means that neither they nor their wives or husbands must be beneficiaries. Your solicitor will ensure the Will is correctly witnessed.

5 KEEP THE WILL IN A SAFE PLACE

Most people ask their solicitor or bank manager to look after their Will. If you do not wish to do this, make sure you keep it in a safe place and trust someone close to you, who knows where to find it.