

# YOUR GUIDE TO MAKING A WILL

A LAW SOCIETY OF IRELAND SERIES



## What is a will?

A will is a legal statement of how you would like your assets (estate) to be distributed after your death.

## Why should I make a will?

Making a will has many advantages. By making a will, you can:

- choose how your assets will be distributed,
- decide who will act as executor (the person who will administer your estate),
- decide who will be guardian to your minor children (children under 18),
- provide for your dependants, and
- plan for inheritance tax.

Having a will also makes it easier for your loved ones when you die.

If you do not make a will, the law sets out how your assets will be distributed – and who can be appointed to administer your estate.

## Keeping your will up to date

It is important to review your will regularly, especially after any major life change – for example, if you get married or separate from your spouse.

## Where do I start?

Start by talking to your solicitor. Making a will can be complex and there are various legal formalities that you need to follow to make sure your will is valid. Your solicitor is experienced in helping to draft wills and will be able to help you avoid any pitfalls. Your solicitor can also advise you about reducing inheritance tax.

## More information

For more information about making a will, visit

[www.lawsociety.ie/willsandprobate](http://www.lawsociety.ie/willsandprobate)

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