

Who are we?

Osler Donegan Taylor is a small, forward thinking firm of solicitors formed in 1998 and based in the centre of Brighton & Hove. Our team aims to shed the image of unapproachable law firms by adopting a less formal and much more friendly and personal approach towards our clients.

We will be able to offer advice on how best to treat your assets on death and also offer broad advice on the simple ways in which you can minimise your Estate's liability to Inheritance Tax.

Consider whether
Inheritance Tax
can be
**reasonably
reduced**
or avoided

Interested in finding out more?

We carry out free drop-in clinics at our offices every Tuesday afternoon between 2pm and 3.30pm. Feel free to call in and speak to us about making your Will. Alternatively call us on 01273 710712 or send us an e-mail and we will be happy to explain the process in more detail.

Finally, we'll be happy to provide you with a full written quote.

Osler Donegan Taylor
Pavilion View, 19 New Road
Brighton, BN1 1UF
Tel: 01273 710712
Fax: 01273 221584

Email: rtaylor@odt.uk.com
Email: hosler@odt.uk.com
www.odt.uk.com



Osler Donegan Taylor
Solicitors

WILLS
and
Probate

Finding the best solution

Finding the best solution

Why make a Will?

About 70% of all adults in the UK do not have a valid Will. If you die without a valid Will, the intestacy rules (i.e. the Government) have control over what happens to your money, property and all other assets. In this case, the distribution of your estate is unlikely to be as you would have wished, and the people you care about may be disadvantaged. At the same time intestacy rules often create undesirable trusts with ongoing costs, tax and other implications. By making a Will you can ensure that you have control of what is to happen to each of your assets when you die.

Making a Will is generally quite a simple procedure – provided it is carefully drafted and executed in accordance with the rules. A Will also enables you to appoint the executors of your choice for administering your estate, and the guardians and trustees for your children. You will be able to make sure these people have the powers they need to deal with your affairs to the greatest advantage and in accordance with your wishes – these are powers which they may not otherwise have if left to the intestacy rules.

By careful drafting of your Will you can also reduce as much as possible the tax which will have to be paid on your estate, thus leaving more to your beneficiaries and avoiding handing over too much of your hard-earned cash to the Government!

Provided that your estate is worth more than the minimum tax-free level that the Government sets year on year in the April budget, Inheritance tax is currently 40% of the value of your estate. If this can be avoided, so much the better!

Frequently asked questions

Is making a Will expensive?

No, making a Will is not usually expensive. Unless your affairs are unusually complicated, we can usually prepare a simple Will for a fee of around £100 plus VAT. If a couple wish to make simple Wills of a substantially similar nature, we can prepare them both for around £150 plus VAT.

Am I rich enough to justify making a Will?

It is sadly the case that most people are richer upon death than in their lifetime. Most people who own property have insurance against death, which will pay off the mortgage thus leaving their property to them to dispose of as they wish. In addition you may have life insurance, bank and/or deposit accounts, shares or other assets.

What about the Will I made years ago?

If you made a Will say 5 years ago it probably does not reflect your present wishes. You may have become significantly richer or poorer, inflation may have made the sums of money you left to certain people worth a lot less, the beneficiaries under your Will may have died before you or you may have more children or grandchildren than before. If you have married since you last made a Will it will no longer be valid.

Wills are subject to strict rules of interpretation – there is no opportunity for your executors to consider what you might have wanted if you had updated your Will. Although you can make small changes to your Will by Codicil, you should consider making a new Will if you want to change it substantially. A new Will automatically overrides any previous Will.

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What if I change my mind in the future – can I change my Will?

You can change your Will by codicil, or by making a new Will at any time.

What do I do next?

If and when you instruct us to prepare a Will for you, we will ask you for financial and other details so that we can consider whether Inheritance Tax can be reasonably reduced or avoided and we will ask you for your general instructions and wishes. We do have a detailed questionnaire we can send you, or we can meet with you. We will then send a draft Will to you with our specific advice on any issues which need further consideration. When you are entirely satisfied with it, we will provide you with the final draft for signing. After it has been signed we are happy to keep it for you in our deeds store and to provide you with a copy.

About 70%
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