

j&p

judge&priestley
SOLICITORS • EST. 1889

Making a will

The essentials



www.judge-priestley.co.uk

Since 1889

Why Make a Will?

Dying without a valid Will in the UK means that your estate is subject to the rules of intestacy. Under intestacy rules, a surviving spouse or civil partner may not inherit your entire estate but may have to share it with children or with your parent or siblings.

Cohabitees and step-children will not automatically benefit from an intestate estate. If you die without making a Will your wishes, desires and intentions will carry no weight in how your assets, whether property or otherwise, are distributed. Also you will not have taken advantage of all the tax saving arrangements available to those with a valid Will.

A well drafted Will can ensure that your chosen beneficiaries inherit your estate with the minimum of fuss. It can help reduce and in some cases negate any inheritance tax liability.

At Judge & Priestley, our Wills, Trusts & Probate Team will help you to achieve your wishes for the transfer of your estate on death - taking into account your family and financial circumstances.

- Issues such as **Guardianship** and the appointment of appropriate Executors will be addressed.
- Second families can be catered for via a suitable **Trust Structure** in your Will which, whilst making provision for a second partner, can ensure that children from a first relationship will ultimately benefit.

Matters of particular complexity are our speciality, for example:

- Our solicitors have particular expertise in advising parents of children with special needs who are concerned about the management of estate funds after death.
- A properly structured discretionary trust arising on the death of the second parent can allow assets to be used for a child with special needs without jeopardising means-tested benefits.



Inheritance Tax and its implications on the value of an individual's estate:

- There are various tax efficient mechanisms which we can implement in your Will. At Judge & Priestley we utilise a unique strategy for our clients who have commenced divorce proceedings. This particular strategy will minimise your estate's Inheritance Tax liability should you die before the divorce is finalised.
- A tax efficient Will can also potentially minimise your spouse's nursing home fees. This is commonly known as 'ring fencing' and would benefit married couples. In your Will, assets up to the value of your inheritance tax nil rate band are ring fenced in a trust. As a result it is unlikely to form part of your spouse's assets when an assessment is made by the Local Authority for the purposes of qualification for assistance with nursing care fees.

Judge & Priestley offer a home visit service and will be happy to visit you at your home or office at a time that is convenient for you.

Protecting Your Assets for Future Generations

You may wish to protect or preserve assets for your children and future generations. For instance, if your Will makes an outright gift to your son, such a gift forms part of his assets when you die. As a result of this, if he were to subsequently divorce or be made bankrupt, his inheritance will become vulnerable against claims from his ex-wife or creditors. Judge & Priestley can advise you as to the most effective steps to be taken involving the utilisation of appropriate trusts in your Will to help protect the inheritance received by your loved ones.

Our **Wills, Trusts & Probate Team** will guide you through the options available, step by step, before drafting your Will, advising you and informing you of the tax implications of your proposals.

Once we have ensured that your Last Will and Testament has been validly executed, we will store your Will free of charge and provide you with a copy for your records.



About Judge & Priestley Solicitors

For over 130 years, Judge & Priestley have been providing clients with expert and professional legal advice. We understand the value of a personal and friendly service. We also recognise the need to move with changing times.

Today, Judge & Priestley is a modern and progressive firm providing constructive and effective legal advice to meet our client's requirements. We act for individuals, businesses and local authorities providing a wide range of legal services.

Whilst we are proud of our tradition, we have continually evolved to ensure that Judge & Priestley today meets the new challenges affecting our clients and their requirements for legal services.

Whatever your needs, our specialist solicitors are on call to ensure you have the best legal advice to hand. If you would like to speak to an expert, please contact us and we will be pleased to assist.

expert, professional, friendly...



Free Initial Consultation

We appreciate how important it is for you to be able to manage your private affairs and recognise that financial planning is an integral part of providing for your family in the future.

Our highly experienced team are on hand to provide you with the advice and guidance you need to assist with organising and planning your property and money, giving you that all important peace of mind and where appropriate, save your estate the payment of unnecessary inheritance tax.



WHY J&P?

- **Experts** in probate and most of our probate solicitors are **STEP** qualified.
- **Dedicated solicitor** dealing with your matter.
- **Fixed fee** pricing.
- **Home visits** and out of office appointments.
- **Excellent feedback** and reviews.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Probate and estate administration.
- Will writing.
- Lasting powers of attorney.
- Court of protection and deputyship applications.
- Trusts.
- Inheritance tax advice and planning.

Your Key Contact

David P Chandra

LLB (Hons) TEP

Head of Wills and Probate

T: 020 3928 7090

E: dchandra@judge-priestley.co.uk



www.judge-priestley.co.uk

Since 1889

Office Locations

Bromley - Head Office

Judge & Priestley LLP
Justin House, 6 West Street
Bromley, Kent BR1 1JN

T: 020 8290 0333

F: 020 8464 3332

E: info@judge-priestley.co.uk

www.judge-priestley.co.uk

 @JudgePriestley

Beckenham Office

Judge & Priestley LLP
108 - 110 High Street,
Beckenham, Kent BR3 1EB

T: 020 8290 0333

E: info@judge-priestley.co.uk

www.judge-priestley.co.uk

 @JudgePriestley

Blackheath Office

Judge & Priestley LLP
9 Tranquil Vale,
Blackheath, London SE3 0BU

T: 020 8290 0333

F: 020 8464 3332

E: info@judge-priestley.co.uk

www.judge-priestley.co.uk

 @JudgePriestley

Sidcup Office

Judge & Priestley LLP
100 Station Road,
Sidcup, London DA15 7DT

T: 020 8290 0333

F: 020 8464 3332

E: info@judge-priestley.co.uk

www.judge-priestley.co.uk

 @JudgePriestley



© Copyright Judge & Priestley 2023. Judge & Priestley LLP is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority. Judge & Priestley is the trading name of Judge & Priestley LLP, a limited liability partnership registered in England & Wales. Registration no. OC312733. Registered office: Justin House, 6 West Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1JN. Please note that the information contained in this leaflet is intended for informational purposes only, and should not be construed as legal advice. You should always seek legal advice before pursuing any course of action.