

Wills

Your Will is possibly one of the most important legal documents you will make. Careful planning and consideration can help you to secure a future for those you leave behind. If you do not leave a Will, you are considered to die intestate, which means that the law decides who will inherit your property and your estate will not be distributed in accordance with your wishes.

Single straightforward Will	£175 + VAT (£35)
Mirrored straightforward Wills for a couple	£250 + VAT (£50)
Single complex Will	Fee to be based on the complexity of the matter

Lasting Powers of Attorney

What is it?

It's a document by which you grant one or more people, who you trust, the legal authority to make decisions about managing your property and finances, or about your health and welfare, on your behalf.

It can be drawn up at any time while you have the mental capacity and it's not just for the elderly; younger people may become incapacitated through accident or illness.

Why do I need one?

Gives *you* the right to choose who will have the responsibility for looking after your affairs; giving you control over the decisions you want to be made on your behalf, the people who you want to make these decisions and how you want those people to make these decisions.

Don't assume your partner will be able to make those decisions – they too would need to be appointed as attorney.

The alternative?

Once you've lost capacity an application must be made to court for a deputy to be appointed. This is a costly and time consuming process and means that you have no control over who is appointed or what decisions they are able to make.

And if you change your mind a Lasting Power of Attorney can be cancelled while you still have capacity.

Single Donor one LPA	£250 + VAT (£50)
Single Donor two LPAs	£350 + VAT (£70)

Two Donors two LPAs	£350 + VAT (£70)
Two Donors four LPAs	£550 + vat (£110)

+ Office of the Public Guardian fees of £82 per document

Probate and Estate Administration

We appreciate that when someone passes away it can be a very emotional time – you can rely on our Private Client team to take care of the essentials. Probate and the administration of the estate can be highly confusing, especially at a time when there is already so much to deal with. We can assist with the application for probate of the Will or advise you in your capacity as an Executor.

As Executor you have a responsibility to administer the estate property – you will need to establish the extent of the estate, pay any debts and liabilities and then distribute the balance of the estate in accordance with the Will. We can help and guide through the administration.

Our charges are based on a combination of the time spent by us and the value of the estate. The time spent will be charged at the hourly rate of the person dealing with the matter (£150-£180) plus vat. So far as the value element is concerned, this will be charged in addition to the time spent and will be 0.5% of the value of any freehold/leasehold property comprised in the estate (or 0.75% if we are the Executor) and 1% of the gross value of all the other assets comprised in the estate (or 1.5% if we are the Executor).

In the vast majority of cases we anticipate the work required to be undertaken will take us between 8 – 46 hours.

In addition to our charges there will be certain which we will have to make on your behalf:

- Probate application fee - currently £155 but this is due to change and will depend on the value of the estate
- Notices to protect against unknown creditors – London Gazette (£69.50) and local paper (West Briton - £75)
- Valuation fees