



Making a Will

It is easy to assume that everyone realises the importance of making a Will to ensure that their wishes concerning the disposal of their property and assets are carried out. It is extraordinary, therefore, to discover just how many people die without leaving a Will and therefore leaving their family and assets subject to the vagaries of the Rules of Intestacy.

We believe that everyone should have a Will if for no other reason than to give peace of mind, although there are many other purposes for making a Will. We have therefore produced an individual leaflet entitled 'Ten Good Reasons for Making a Will' which sets out possible pitfalls for the unwary and the steps to be taken to ensure that your estate is distributed as you would wish. The leaflet also gives details of the likely cost.

Probate and the Administration of Estates

Coping with the death of a loved one or a close friend imposes great strain on you and your family. At the same time, there will be legal and financial issues to be dealt with, many of which will be unfamiliar to you and/or your family.

When you are considering making your Will with us, or if you may, in the near future, have to face the loss of a relative, we would be happy to discuss with you the procedures relating to probate and the role of Executors if this would be of help to you. We can also indicate the likely costs involved in administering an estate.

Tax

At Berry & Berry, we have a very experienced tax and trust department and can provide assistance and/or guidance in relation to taxation affecting the following:

- Inheritance Tax planning
- Administering of Estates
- Trusts
- Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax in relation to investments generally

Deputyship and Court of Protection

If, due to advancing years, disability, illness or accident, you are no longer able to manage your own financial or business affairs, it may be necessary for someone to be appointed to act on your behalf. Ideally, and wherever possible, you should have made a Lasting Power of Attorney which can come into operation at this difficult time - if none is available and you are unable to execute such a power, an application will have to be made to the Court of Protection (now Office of the Public Guardian) for the appointment of a 'Deputy'.



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