

ORDERING YOUR AFFAIRS

As the years pass and life changes, all of us at some point must come to terms with the sense of our own mortality. It's at that point that most of us feel the need to order our affairs and make provision for our loved ones.

Making a Will

Nowadays, as many people realise, if they do not put their affairs in order, it is very often their nearest and dearest who will suffer most. Ensuring you have a Will and that it is up to date is the first step - however, making the right provision should go further than just making a will.

At Berry & Berry we have tried to create an environment that will enable all our clients to consider how best to deal with a variety of important and often sensitive issues. Obviously, you do not have to act on all these issues if you do not want to. However, if you are considering just one of them, then it may well be helpful to consider the others at the same time.

Regular Will Reviews

The first step in ordering your affairs is to ensure that you have an up to date Will. This means that, if the worse happens, your family and friends are provided for as you would wish. A Will saves them the worry and distress of having to guess what you would have wanted in respect of funeral wishes. This can only help to alleviate the stress and upset they will have to undergo at a time when they are likely to be thinking at their least clear. Your Will should be reviewed at least every five years and on the occurrence of any life events such as births, marriages and deaths, impending retirement, inheritance and so on.

Bequests

During the course of considering the provision of your Will you can give instruction for the bequest of specific items belonging to you, financial legacies to individuals or charities and the use of your organs for transplant and/or medical research so as to benefit other people after your death. There can be a great sense of satisfaction on knowing that you have given others the opportunity of a better life even after you have gone.

Inheritance Tax Planning

Given the inevitability of death and taxes, there is no reason why you should not, in the event of the one, reduce so far as possible the effect of the other on the financial provision you are making for your loved ones. We can help you to consider how best to reduce the impact of Inheritance Tax on your Estate both by means of lifetime giving and the creation of a tax efficient Will.

Lasting Powers of Attorney

We believe all clients should have a Lasting Power of Attorney for use if a time comes when you are unable to manage your financial and business affairs. That inability could be due to physical or mental incapacity, either temporary or long term.

Assesment of Affairs

You may also wish to give consideration as to how 'old-age care' might be financed and, indeed, a specialist overview of your general financial position may well be beneficial. For example, do you have a business or business property? What insurance policies do you have and who will benefit from them, your family or the Inland Revenue? Are there any marriage or relationship problems in the family either now or in the past? Have your investments been reviewed lately?

We can assist you with a general overview of your finances and help you to ask the right questions at the right time. If specific investment advice is required, we can introduce you to specialist independent financial advisors who can ensure that your finances are in the best shape possible for you and your family.

Charges and Fees

As a client of Berry & Berry, we believe you should feel able to discuss all of the above matters with us without incurring substantial legal costs. Many of the services we provide to help you to manage your affairs are for a fixed fee, details of which can be given on request.



SOLICITORS

11 Church Road
Tunbridge Wells
Kent TN1 1JA

Tel: 01892 526344
Fax: 01892 511223

185 High Street
Tonbridge
Kent TN9 1BX

Tel: 01732 355911
Fax: 01732 355191

3 Tonbridge Road
Maidstone
Kent ME16 8RL

Tel: 01622 690777
Fax: 01622 662555

Suite 100, 70 Churchill Square
Business Centre, Kings Hill,
West Malling ME19 4YU

Tel: 01732 897925

Email: mail@the-solicitors.co.uk www.the-solicitors.co.uk