

# Wills, Trusts and Probate

What will happen to your possessions, estate and wealth upon your death?

Whilst it is not a pleasant topic of conversation, it is a fact of life that we are all going to die eventually. The consequences for those who are left behind can lead to all manner of difficulties and complications, if the deceased did not make any plans for the inevitable.

## Making a Will

Arguably a Will is the most important document that you will ever make, and you should not be without, especially if you have a partner and/or children. Writing a Will is the only way you can ensure your loved ones are looked after properly in the way you would want.

- If you have no immediate relatives, searches will have to be implemented to establish the whereabouts of distant relatives to inherit your estate
- If you have no relatives at all, any property will be left to the Crown whereas you may have wanted it to be left to a friend or to a charity

## Probate Law

Whether or not a person has made a Will, when a person dies, their estate still needs to be sorted out.

In the vast majority of cases this means that someone will have to apply for a grant of representation. This can either be a grant of probate where there is a will or a grant of letters of administration where there is not a Will. Where a person only owns assets jointly or where their assets held in their sole name total less than £5000 a grant of representation will usually be unnecessary.



**When you need strength and support ...**  
... we are with you every step of the way

Get legal advice on what to do when someone dies and how to make an application for a grant.

## Trusts and Financial and Tax Planning

Setting up a trust can be a tax efficient way of administering your property and providing for your loved ones after your death. There are many different types of trust so it is important to take expert advice on what type of trust will suit you and your family's circumstances best.

## Lasting Power of Attorney

A Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) is a legal document that you can draw up to appoint someone to look after your affairs and to make decisions on your behalf, in the event that you should lose mental capacity. If you become unable to make decisions about your property, finances or health and welfare then having an LPA in place allows someone you trust to look after these decisions for you or to help you make those decisions.

## Why contact Sydney Mitchell?

At Sydney Mitchell we have a dedicated team of specialists to help you plan. There are many reasons for contacting Sydney Mitchell to make your will, create a trust or for help with probate.

**Trust** - Sydney Mitchell has been advising clients on wills, probate, trusts and estate planning for over 250 years.

**We're here for you** - Sydney Mitchell appreciates that people lead busy lives and in order to offer flexibility to all our clients, we will endeavour to arrange appointments out of hours where necessary.

**Peace of mind** - Sydney Mitchell has a team of experts to help you plan one of the most important decisions for you and your loved ones.

## Talk to one of our team today...



**Tracy Creed**  
Head of Private Client  
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Tracy has extensive experience in all areas of Private Client work including trusts, wills, probate, inheritance tax planning, estate planning and care funding issues.



**Ravinder Sandhu,**  
Associate Solicitor  
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Ravinder has over thirteen years of experience advising clients on a wide range of private client issues. She advises on all aspects of lifetime estate planning, including the preparation of Wills, inheritance tax issues and the creation of trusts.



**Shelley Collingbourne**  
Associate Solicitor  
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Shelley advises clients with the preparation of Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney and assists with administering estates and making applications to the Court of Protection.



**Gillian Hassaine**  
Private Client Practitioner  
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Gillian deals with the Administration of Estates and Trusts and the preparation of Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney.

**For further information and to discuss any area of concern, please contact us at Sydney Mitchell LLP**

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