

Why you should make a will

It is estimated that only 36% of people have made a will, yet the repercussions of not having one can have significant consequences. Louise Salisbury outlines some of the more important issues that may arise if you do not have a will:

- **Your assets may not pass to the people you care about the most.**
- **Your estate may be administered by people you have not chosen.**
- **You cannot leave treasured items to named beneficiaries.**
- **You cannot appoint guardians for young children.**
- **You cannot put age restrictions on gifts to children or young adults so they could receive large sums of money at a young age.**
- **You cannot use trusts to protect your assets or vulnerable relatives.**
- **You cannot set out what funeral arrangements you want.**
- **You cannot benefit your favourite charities.**
- **You may miss opportunities to plan to avoid inheritance tax or care home fees.**
- **In some cases your entire estate could pass to the crown.**