

Why you should use a solicitor to prepare your will

In the days when “online” or artificially low price Will writing services are actively being promoted by different service providers, it is important to remember that the preparation of a Will is a highly specialised area of the law. All kinds of companies offer Will writing services but they do not necessarily have the level of expertise and qualifications of a solicitor.

We have been preparing Wills for our clients for over 130 years. Our aim is not just to ensure that our clients’ wishes are carried out but also to provide a personal and specialist service. We want to build a relationship with our clients which we hope will last for many years.

As part of our service, we offer the following:

- ⦿ We take details of all assets and liabilities as well as details of family members. In this way, we can fully advise you on Inheritance Tax mitigation and asset protection. We can advise you upon any potential claims against your estate and how to manage the risks associated with this. We provide you with a written estimate of our charges and, in most cases, can agree a fixed fee.
- ⦿ Your work will be overseen by an experienced Solicitor. All of our staff who prepare Wills specialise in this area of work and many are specialist members of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) and Solicitors for the Elderly (SFE). We also have a specialist member of the Association of Contentious Trust and Probate Specialists (ACTAPS).
- ⦿ We provide an initial face to face meeting in the office or, if necessary, at your home. We confirm your identity (in order to prevent fraud) and consider whether there are any issues relating to undue influence and mental capacity. We will advise you if we believe that a specialist report regarding capacity is necessary. This can be an important safeguard to ensure the validity of your Will and that your wishes are carried out.
- ⦿ After the initial meeting, we prepare a draft Will and send this to you for consideration. We will go through the draft Will with you and make any amendments or changes required.
- ⦿ There will be a second appointment to supervise the signing and witnessing of your Will to make sure that it complies with the legal formalities of the Wills Act.
- ⦿ We offer free storage for all original Wills.

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Why you should use a solicitor to prepare your will - continued

- ⦿ The firm is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and has “Lexcel” accreditation from the Law Society. This is in recognition of our quality control and high practice management standards. As solicitors, we must have professional indemnity insurance for the protection of our clients.
- ⦿ We are the only Firm of solicitors in Brighton ranked as a Leading Firm in the area of Tax, Trusts & Estates by Chambers UK 2013, an independent legal directory which ranks law firms.
- ⦿ Our aim is to provide a personal and first class service to build a lasting relationship with you. It is our business to know what is important to you and help you achieve your objectives.

Griffith Smith Farrington Webb LLP, Solicitors for:

- ⦿ A first class friendly Service
- ⦿ Home Visits - if necessary (at no extra charge to Patcham & Westdene area clients)
- ⦿ Free parking at all of our offices (Brighton, Hassocks and Henfield)
- ⦿ Expertise in Tax, Trusts & Estates.