



MAKING A WILL



The basic information set out below is not intended to provide all the answers, and should be read in conjunction with the detailed advice provided.

HOW IS A WILL MADE?

A Will must be in writing and there must be two witnesses to a Will both of whom must be present when the person making the Will signs. A witness is someone who sees you place your signature at the end of the Will and who then puts their signature underneath yours. A beneficiary cannot witness your Will because they will lose their entitlement.

CAN ANYONE MAKE A WILL?

You need to be 18 years old and you need to understand:

- 1 That you are making a Will which gives away your assets on your death.
- 2 What it is that you own and the value of it. A rough idea of what your estate comprises will suffice.
- 3 Any moral claims on you. Although you are free to leave your property to whom you wish, you must understand the consequences of not providing in your Will for a dependent or of not leaving your estate to family.

Once you have made a Will it is effective until you :-

- (a) change it
- (b) revoke or cancel it
- (c) marry or enter into a civil partnership

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT MAKE A WILL?

If you do not make a Will you die Intestate.

It is commonly thought that if a husband/wife or civil partner dies, that the surviving spouse will receive everything. This is incorrect.

a) If there are children a spouse will receive only up to £250,000 cash, all personal belongings and an income

b) If there are no children, but parents/brothers/sisters surviving, then the spouse receives up to £450,000 cash all personal belongings and half of what is left in the estate. The remaining family will receive the other half immediately.

By not making a will;

1. You do not get to say who is to inherit.
2. You do not get to choose who you would like to administer your estate.

We will be glad to help at every stage of the process. Please feel free to contact either Alan Dobbins, Dawn Parkes or Caroline Billings for a free initial discussion over the telephone, entirely without obligation. They will be delighted to hear from you.



Alan Dobbins

Joint Head of Private Client and Commercial Property Department with a particular interest in commercial property and high-profile conveyancing, tax and trust.

Dawn Parkes

Partner at Hatch Brenner since 1991, and head of the probate department. Handles all aspects of wills, probate, trusts and tax planning. Previously specialised for many years in matrimonial matters. Dawn was educated at King Edward VI Grammar School, in Lincolnshire, and studied Law at the University of East Anglia. She holds the Society for Trust and Estate Practitioners' certificate. Leisure interests include reading, badminton, food, and holiday travel. Contact Tel: 01603 674516



Caroline Billings

Joined Hatch Brenner's private client department in 2009, and specialises in wills, probate, trusts, tax - planning, enduring and lasting powers of attorney, and Court of Protection matters. She studied at the College of Law, York, and subsequently qualified as a solicitor in 2004 after completing her training contract in Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich. Caroline is a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP). She arrived at Hatch Brenner from a Suffolk-based firm, and has spent all of her working life in East Anglia. Caroline is a qualified glider pilot, and in addition to flying she enjoys many other sports including squash, netball and snowboarding.



4 THEATRE STREET



DENCORA HOUSE

▾ Solicitors

Hatch Brenner LLP is a limited liability partnership regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and registered in England and Wales with registered number OC343110. The registered office is 4 Theatre Street Norwich NR2 1QY. A list of members may be inspected at any of our offices. The term 'Partner' is used to refer to a Member of Hatch Brenner LLP.

The content of this brochure is for general information only. As always, specific professional advice should be taken on each individual matter. Copyright in this publication belongs to Hatch Brenner.

4 Theatre Street
Norwich, NR2 1QY
DX 5237 Norwich 1

T 01603 660811
F 01603 619473
E info@hatchbrenner.co.uk
www.hatchbrenner.co.uk