

SIGNING GUIDE

Bring your Will to life



Safe to do
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What is this guide about?

You have now received your written Will. It outlines exactly how you wish your property to be shared on your death.

However, for the Will to be legally valid, there are a number of strict legal formalities with which you must comply.

This Signing Guide outlines the legal requirements and how you must sign your Will for it to be legally valid and protected from being challenged.

How to use this guide

Read this guide after reviewing your Will and before you begin to print and sign it. Use it as step-by-step instruction to ensure you take the right steps in validly executing your Will.

There is more information in this guide about the most important aspects involved in the signing process.

If you require further help and information, please do email info@adewills.co.uk and we will be more than happy to help you.

Step-by-step instructions

The legal formalities derive from the Wills Act 1837, section 9, which provides that for the Will to be legally valid, it must be:

- In writing
- Signed by you (the testator), or by another person in your presence and by your direction
- In the presence of two or more independent witnesses present at the same time, and who must attest and sign the Will.

We explore some of these points below:

The Will must be in writing

Your Will can be handwritten or typed in an electronic format. For your purposes, your downloadable Will satisfies this legal requirement, **once printed**.

Whilst it is not a legal requirement, it is important to print your Will double sided to prevent any unnecessary gaps between the clauses in your Will which may encourage a third party to attempt to make unwanted amendments. It is best to limit space between the content of your Will.

Once you have printed your Will, you must neatly staple your Will in three staples down the left side of the sheets.

You can use some other sort of binding system which will show up any tampering with the pages. You don't need to print it on special paper.

However, you must not attach any other document to your Will, such as a letter or note or front cover. If you do, you may make your Will void.

Want us to print for you?

Don't have a printer or simply don't want the hassle of printing your Will correctly? Don't worry. We have a number of printing packages to help you out (all printed package prices exclude postage):

Simply Stapled

£3

Want a Will but don't want the hassle of printing it? This is the option for you. Our simplest printing service, we print your Will double sided on A4 cream paper, and staple it together for you.

Simple, yet effective.

Ribbon Refined

£5

Want a simply printed Will, but with a bit of flair? This package is the same as the Simply Stapled, but we bind your Will together with a stylish ribbon, from a choice of 10 beautiful colours.

The practical option.

Beautifully Bound

£25

This package considers the need for your Will to stand the test of time in an effortlessly stylish fashion.

Your Will is printed double sided on A4 cream paper, and spiral bound together with a hardback cover and a plastic front cover.

Professionally Presented

£30

You know exactly where you will store your Will. You have finally got around to making your Will and already have a space reserved for it. So, why not fill that space with a Will to be taken seriously.

Your Will is printed and bound as Ribbon Refined, and kept secure in an A4 presentation folder.

Want a Will to remember?

We understand that your Will is the most important document you will write in your life. For this reason, we offer two premium printing packages to make your Will unforgettable...

Leather Legacy

£50

The elegant option.

Your Will is printed Beautifully Bound and kept safe and secure in a memorable leather case. The case looks simplistically graceful and feels gentle and warm in your hand.

You can choose from Black, Dark Blue, Brown or Turquoise, to further personalise your legacy.

Sacred Scroll

£75 per page

The unique option. A Will to set you apart.

We work with the UK's only commercial manufacturer of genuine Calfskin Vellum to provide you with a truly memorable legacy.

You can have your Will printed by the same people who print our laws in this country and the Royal Wedding Certificate from 2011.

**It's not what you say,
it's how you say it. Say
more with a premium
Will.**

Choose yours now.

You must date your Will

Without a date, no one can be certain that it is your latest Will.

An undated Will is, at face value, void.

For your purposes, you must date your Will:

- on the front page, in the space provided.
- on the second page, in the introductory paragraph above your Revocation Clause.

You must sign your Will

Any mark made by yourself on your Will validates your Will, provided that you intended it to be your signature, and that this signature is meant to execute the Will.

If a testator is illiterate, they can even use their thumbprint as their signature to execute the Will. This would be enough to execute the Will.

Typically, the signature must be at the end of the last page of the Will.

You will find a space for you to sign your Will on the last page, next to the black curvy bracket. You must sign on the right side of this curly bracket, in the blank space provided.

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You will find a space for you to sign your Will on the last page, next to the black curvy bracket. You must sign on the right side of this curly bracket, in the blank space provided.

There must be two independent witnesses present at the same time

When you sign your Will, it is essential that you do so in the presence of two independent witnesses.

Both your witnesses must see you sign the Will.

If one of the two witnesses does not see you actually sign your Will, the Will is considered invalid.

Both witnesses must be in the same room, attentive and watch you sign your Will.

The witnesses must attest and sign the Will

It is not necessary for the witnesses to be aware of the contents of your Will. However, they must know that the document being signed is your Will.

After attesting to and witnessing the signing of your Will, your witnesses must attest the Will by signing and acknowledging their signature in your presence.

For your purposes, there are two boxes underneath your signing space which are allocated for your witnesses to:

- i. Sign
- ii. State their name
- iii. State their address
- iv. State their occupation.

All of these details are required in case the witness needs to be located in the instance your Will is challenged for any reason.

Who can be a witness?

Your witness does not have to be a professional person and is not required to have any special qualifications.

Your witnesses must:

- Be over 18 years of age
- Have mental capacity to understand what he is witnessing
- Not be blind or partially-sighted
- Be as independent as possible.

Ideal candidates are neighbours, work colleagues, your accountant or your doctor.

You must not ask any of your beneficiaries to be a witness. If a beneficiary (or any of their close relatives, such as their spouse) witness your Will, the Will is still valid; however, the beneficiary in question will lose their inheritance under your Will.

What should I do with my signed Will?

Once you have signed your Will, it is legally effective.

It is important to store your signed Will safely because a Will which is known to be in your possession before death but cannot be located afterwards, is presumed to have been destroyed by you with the intention of revoking it.

You may have a storage space in your home to keep the Will safe.

Or, you could store the Will with your bank or at the Probate Registry where it will be kept securely. Although this is a paid storage service, it is effective preventing anyone from administering your estate without following your Will.

Store with confidence



Wherever you choose to store your Will, it is important to inform your executors of its whereabouts. For this reason, we offer a storage solution with **Certainty, The National Will Register**.

For **just £10**, we can register the location of your Will so that it can be more easily located in the future.

Simply [click here](#) and tell us where the Will is stored and we can take care of the rest for you.



Can I change my Will?

Once your Will is signed, you must not make any changes to it. This includes adding new wording, adding notes, deleting, crossing out or editing any of it in any way. Doing so will invalidate your Will.

Instead, it is always recommended to simply make a new Will where the change is substantial.

Any minor changes can be added using a document called a codicil, though the safest option is always to make a new Will.

Please do get in touch with any changes or updates you wish to make to your Will and our team will be happy to help you.



Nervous about getting it right?

Take a back seat and let us take charge for you. For **just £100**, we can come to your home or any location which you prefer and conduct the execution of your Will for you so you can be confident that everything has been done correctly.

Simply [click here](#) and let us know when and where we need to go.



We will even register your Will on [Certainty for free](#).

Don't know who to pick?

Given the sensitive nature of your Will, selecting an independent witness can sometimes be hard.

Don't worry, we have a team of independent witnesses who are more than happy to help out.



Simply [click here](#) and let us know that you wish for us to bring a friendly, independent witness

Call us today on
01865 507174

or email
info@adewills.co.uk