A.D.E Wills

A PLAIN-ENGLISH GUIDE

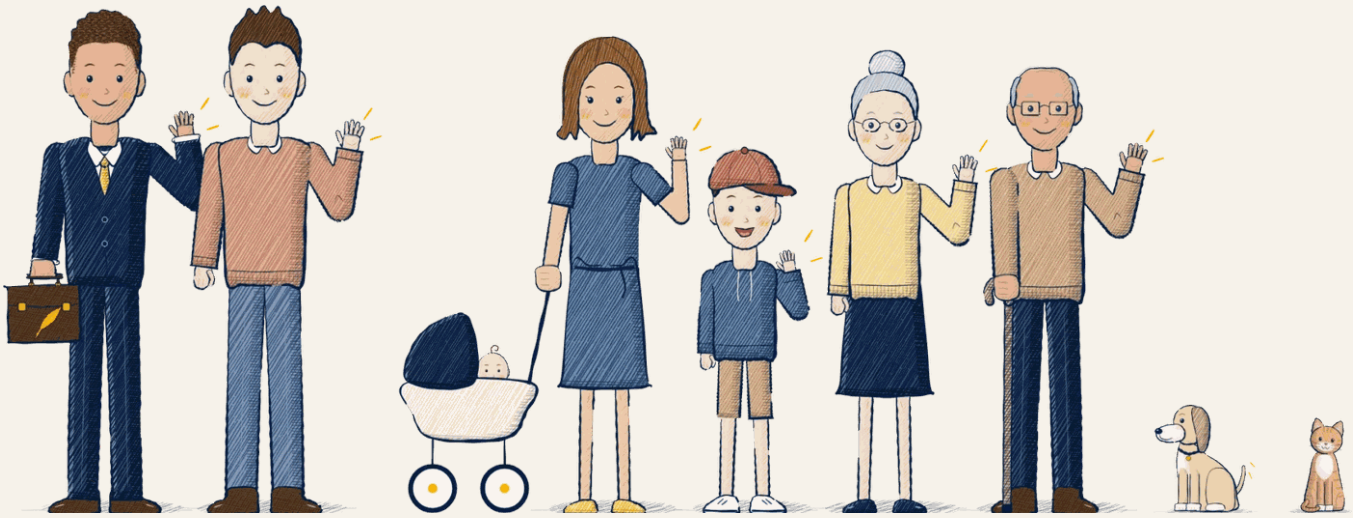
The Wills Starter Guide

Making a Will, made simple.

A clear, friendly walk through what a Will does, what happens without one, and the simple ways we can help you put one in place. No jargon, and nothing to decide today.

INSIDE

- **Why a Will matters** Page 2
- **What a Will actually does** Page 3
- **What happens without one** Page 4
- **Three ways to make your Will** Page 5
- **What's included, and keeping it safe** Page 6
- **Ready when you are** Page 7



WELCOME

A kind, sensible thing to do

Making a Will simply means setting out, in advance, what you would like to happen, so the people you love aren't left guessing.

No one likes to think about a time when they're no longer here, and that's completely natural. But a Will isn't really about endings. It's about staying in control, and sparing the people you care about a great deal of worry at an already difficult time.

Most people tell us the same thing afterwards: they feel a real sense of relief. The decisions turn out to be smaller and simpler than expected. Once your Will is in place it's off your mind, and if life changes, it's easy to update.

This short guide walks you through the essentials in plain English, explaining each term as it comes up. There's nothing to sign and nothing to decide today, just a clear picture so you can choose what's right for you in your own time.

WHY PEOPLE ARE GLAD THEY DID IT



You stay in control

You decide who inherits, who looks after your children and who sorts everything out, rather than leaving it to a fixed set of legal rules.



Kinder to your family

A clear Will makes life far simpler for the people left to deal with things, at exactly the moment they would struggle to guess your wishes.



A weight lifted

It's off your mind for good, and easy to update as your circumstances change over the years.



Who this guide is for

Anyone thinking about making a Will who would like the essentials first, in a few minutes' reading. When you're ready for the detail, our Will Guide explains the law, the people you'll name and how to sign your Will properly. It applies to England and Wales.



WHAT A WILL DOES

What a Will actually does

Your Will says what should happen to everything you own, and who you would like to look after the people who matter to you.

A Will is a legal document that only takes effect after you die. Until then it's entirely yours to change. A well-written Will lets you decide what happens, in your own words, from who receives what right down to a particular keepsake or a gift to a charity close to your heart.

What your Will lets you set out

- ✓ Who inherits your money, property and belongings, and in what shares.
- ✓ Particular gifts: a sum of money, a piece of jewellery or a donation to a cause you care about.
- ✓ Who should look after your children under 18, if that ever falls to someone else.
- ✓ Any funeral wishes you would like your family to know about.

THE WORDS EXPLAINED



Beneficiaries

Whoever you choose to receive something from your estate: family, friends or a favourite charity.



Executors

The people who sort out your affairs after you die and make sure your wishes are carried out.



Guardians

The people you would want to bring up your children if they ever needed someone to step in.

GOOD TO KNOW

Naming guardians is often the biggest reason younger families make a Will. Without it, if the worst happened, who raises your children could be decided by a court, not by you.



Who do people usually choose?

Often a partner, an adult child or a close friend, with someone else named in reserve in case they can't act. It's kind to ask them before you name them.

WITHOUT A WILL

What happens without one

If you die without a valid Will, a strict set of legal rules decides who inherits, and they may not reflect what you would have wanted at all.

These are known as the **rules of intestacy**. They follow a fixed order based on marriage, civil partnership, blood relationship and adoption, with no room for your own wishes, your relationships or the particular circumstances of your family.



THE RESULTS CAN SURPRISE PEOPLE

A long-standing unmarried partner inherits nothing under these rules.

That's true however many years you've been together and whether or not you share a home. They may be able to bring a claim through the court, but that is slow, costly and never certain. Stepchildren you've raised as your own are not included at all unless you legally adopted them.

Even being married isn't always enough

If you have children, your husband, wife or civil partner doesn't automatically receive everything. Above a set amount, currently £322,000, half of what's left goes to your children instead. That may not be what either of you would choose.

The rules can also mean

- More time, cost and paperwork for your family at an already hard time.
- Your estate going to relatives you might not have chosen.
- No chance to say who you'd want to care for your children.

A common myth, gently corrected

Many people assume everything simply passes to their partner, or that "the family will sort it out". In reality the rules can leave an unmarried partner or much-loved stepchildren with nothing, while sending your estate to relatives you may not have chosen. A Will is how you put that right, quietly, in advance and on your own terms.



Our free **Will Guide** sets out the full order of who inherits without a Will. You'll find it at **adewills.co.uk**.

HOW WE HELP

Three ways to make your Will

Same careful service, however we meet. Choose whatever feels most comfortable; the Will you end up with is exactly the same.

Every option includes a proper conversation about your wishes, a Will drafted to your instructions and unlimited changes to the draft until it's just right. The only difference is how we get together.



In-Person

£400 single
£565 couple

In person, at your kitchen table. We come to you at home, or you're welcome at our Oxford office for the same price. Relaxed, unhurried and often the easiest way to talk things through. Home visits are included across Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and neighbouring parts of Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.



Online

£245 single
£405 couple

By video, wherever you are, including clients living abroad with assets in England and Wales. A telephone appointment is available as a backup where video isn't practical. Our lower-cost route.



Emergency

£795 single
£995 couple

For urgent situations such as a hospital admission or imminent surgery. Instructions within 24 hours, a draft within 48, and a second independent witness arranged. If someone needs a Will urgently, please call us.

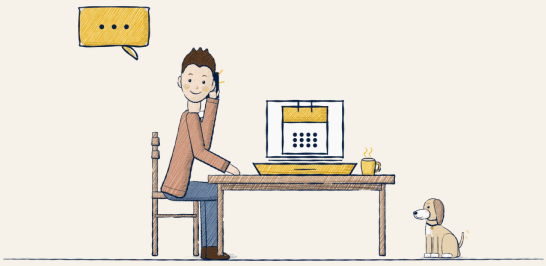
All our fees are fixed and confirmed in writing before any work begins. No VAT is charged. For homes a longer drive from Oxford or Aylesbury, a £75 travel supplement applies, always agreed with you first.

NOT SURE WHICH SUITS YOU?

You don't need to decide now. A free initial chat, online or over the phone, is the easiest way to work out what fits, and we'll always point you to the simplest option for your circumstances.



Call 01865 507174
Monday to Saturday, 8am to 6pm



INCLUDED AND LOOKED AFTER

What's included, and keeping it safe

A Will should be easy to get right, and easy to keep right. Here's what comes as standard, and how we help you keep it safe.

Every In-Person and Online Will includes

- ✓ Unlimited changes to your draft. We keep refining until every word says exactly what you mean.
- ✓ A personalised booklet explaining your draft Will clause by clause, in plain English.
- ✓ Your finished Will printed, bound and posted to you, with a complimentary A.D.E Wills pen.
- ✓ A step-by-step Signing Guide, so witnessing and signing are done properly and your Will is valid.



Keeping it safe and findable

Your original signed Will is the one that counts. If it's lost, damaged or nobody knows where it is, your family can be left with a real problem, so where you keep it matters as much as what it says.

Safe Will Plan

from £3/month

Fire-resistant storage for your Will, a password-protected copy, a yearly review reminder, free registration and release to your executors when the time comes. Members also get 10% off our other Wills services.

Legacy Care Plan

from £10/month

Everything in the Safe Will Plan, plus one update a year covering up to ten minor changes, and a brand-new Will every three years. Your Will kept current without paying for each small change.

Both plans are for Wills written by A.D.E Wills. The Safe Will Plan is billed annually; the Legacy Care Plan is paid monthly with a 12-month minimum term. No VAT is charged.

WHEN IT'S WORTH A REVIEW

- **Getting married or forming a civil partnership**, which normally cancels your existing Will.
- A divorce or separation, a new baby or grandchild, buying a home, or a real change in your finances.
- Someone named in your Will dying, or simply a change of heart.

A SIMPLE NEXT STEP

Ready when you are

The hardest part is often just starting. A short, friendly conversation is the easiest way to see what you need, and what you don't.

A quick checklist to bring along

- ✓ A rough idea of who you would like to inherit, and who your executors might be.
- ✓ If you have children under 18, a thought about who could act as guardians.
- ✓ Any existing Will, and a note of where the original is kept.
- ✓ Any questions on your mind, however small. There's no such thing as a silly one.

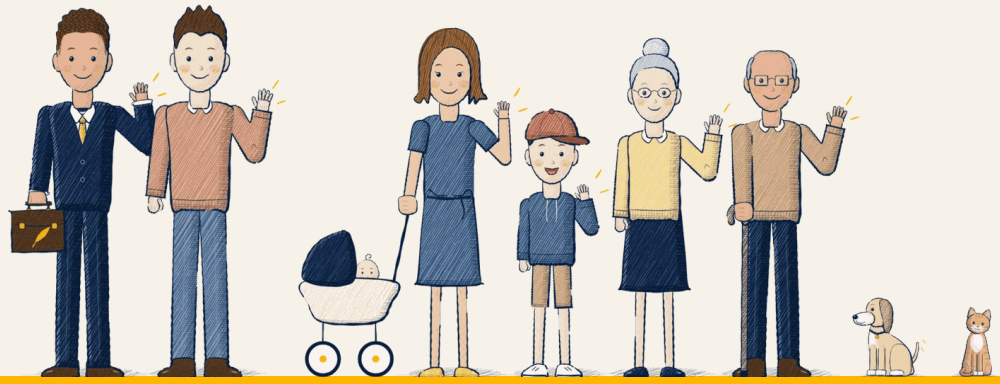
LET'S HAVE A CHAT

01865 507174

Your initial chat is free, online or over the phone, with no obligation. Email **info@adewills.co.uk** or book a free 15-minute call at **calendly.com/ade-wills/15min**.

Want more detail?

Our free **Will Guide** goes further: who inherits without a Will, the people in your Will, signing it properly, and a jargon buster. Download it at **adewills.co.uk**.



A.D.E Wills

Call
01865 507174

Email
info@adewills.co.uk

Visit
46 Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6HT
(by appointment)

Opening hours
Monday to Saturday, 8am to 6pm

Your Will is written by a full member of the Society of Will Writers, working to their Code of Practice and holding full professional indemnity insurance. We are professional Will writers, not solicitors. This guide is general information about the law in England and Wales as at November 2026. It is not personal legal or financial advice and does not create a client relationship. The law can change, and our fees are always confirmed in writing before you instruct us.

A.D.E Wills is a trading name of A.D.E Estate Planning Limited.