PEACOCK & CO Solicitors

# Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney and Estate Planning

"We were led through the preparation of our wills expertly. The service was flawless and friendly from start to finish."

# Clear and practical advice

At Peacock & Co, we believe that estate planning should be individually tailored. We take the time to truly understand your needs so that we can offer personalised solutions, based on our expert knowledge and experience.

Protecting your estate is ultimately about planning ahead to make your loved ones' lives easier after you have gone. Together, we will ensure your legacy is protected and your wishes honoured. We pride ourselves on providing clear and practical advice that is also cost-effective.

## Our experienced team can help you:

- Make a will
- Assist in inheritance tax planning
- Put in place Lasting Powers of Attorney
- Establish trusts
- Administer an estate to obtain a grant of probate
- Make post-death deeds of variation
- Assist with deputyship applications

# Wills

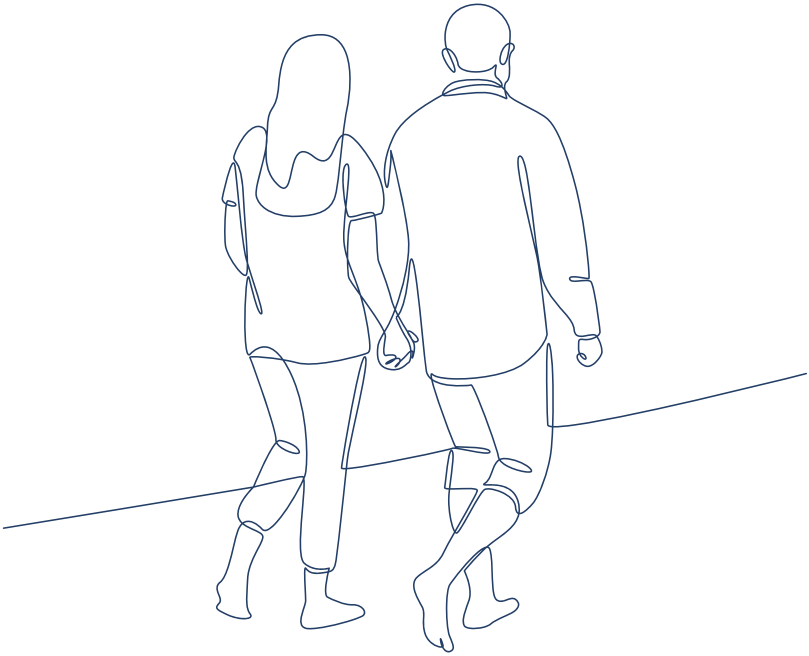
## Creating a will is one of the simplest yet most impactful steps you can take to protect your loved ones and ensure your wishes are followed.

Without a will in place, the law decides how your estate is distributed, which might not align with your wishes – for example, your spouse might not automatically inherit everything and unmarried partners have no automatic rights.

DIY wills often fail to account for complexities and it is easy to fall foul of the strict signing rules, leading to potential disputes or an invalid will. A professionally drafted will ensures clarity and security for you and your loved ones. For peace of mind, we can store your will safely, without charge, and register it with The National Wills Register.

## By drawing up a will, you can:

- Choose whom benefits in your will
- Plan for inheritance tax
- Decide at what age minors will inherit
- Put trusts in place for minors or vulnerable beneficiaries, or to protect any means-tested benefits
- Appoint guardians for minors
- Include funeral wishes
- Use will trusts to provide for your spouse, but protect your estate for children from a former marriage or relationship.



"Solicitors who are very fairly priced, professional, warm and helpful. A rare find. I cannot recommend them more highly."

# Lasting Powers of Attorney

Whilst a will assists after you die, a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) allows you to appoint someone to make decisions on your behalf during your lifetime, should you be unable to do so, at any point in the future.

There are two separate LPAs:

- LPA for property and financial affairs.
- LPA for health and welfare decisions.

You can choose attorneys to act on your behalf and decide how they will make their decisions. You can also appoint replacement attorneys in case your chosen attorneys cannot act for any reason. You can put guidance and restrictions into the LPA although we advise keeping it as flexible as possible.

It is important to have your LPA registered. Without Lasting Powers of Attorney in place, should you lose mental capacity, your loved ones might face a lengthy and costly court process to manage your financial affairs. Medical decisions could be made without your input, potentially going against your wishes.

# Trusts and Inheritance Tax Planning

Estate planning becomes more meaningful when you think inter-generationally and this is where inheritance tax planning comes in - a step to protect your assets beyond just making a will. Our goal is to ensure peace of mind that you are doing all you can to safeguard your hard-earned assets for generations to come.

We can advise on how to pass assets down, as well as give guidance to beneficiaries on how to use inherited assets wisely. Trusts are used for many purposes, including making gifts to beneficiaries that are minors or vulnerable and, as with a gift, they can fall outside of your estate after a period of time. Setting up a trust is a worthwhile but complex process. We will give specialist advice on the right trust for your circumstances and on the tax consequences of any trust you set up.

# Meet the Team

Our friendly team of expert solicitors will be happy to assist you.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# Let's take the next step together

Estate planning can feel like a daunting task, but it doesn't have to be. At Peacock & Co Solicitors, we're here to guide you through every decision with clarity and care.

Whether it's drafting a will, setting up trusts, or establishing a Lasting Power of Attorney, we're ready to help you secure your future and protect your loved ones.

## PEACOCK & CO


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THE ASSOCIATION OF LIFETIME LAWYERS

STEP ADVISING FAMILIES ACROSS GENERATIONS


These notes are for general guidance only. The legal position may alter from time to time. You should seek advice on your individual circumstances before making any decisions. We cannot take responsibility for action solely based on these guidelines.