



Your guide to why you need a Will

Introduction

When thinking about how your estate will be passed on, you will naturally want to make sure that your wishes are followed.

Dying intestate (without a valid Will in place) can significantly increase costs and stress for your family when dealing with your estate at an already difficult time.

We know this is a deeply personal area of the law that can stir up emotions and difficult issues. As expert advisers we will always give you the best practical advice. We take great care to understand your personal concerns and will work with you to ensure that your estate benefits all those you care about.

Writing a Will is important at any stage of your life, whether starting out as a young couple, as a family or as we get older. We recommend a review every 3–5 years or upon any significant change in your circumstances.



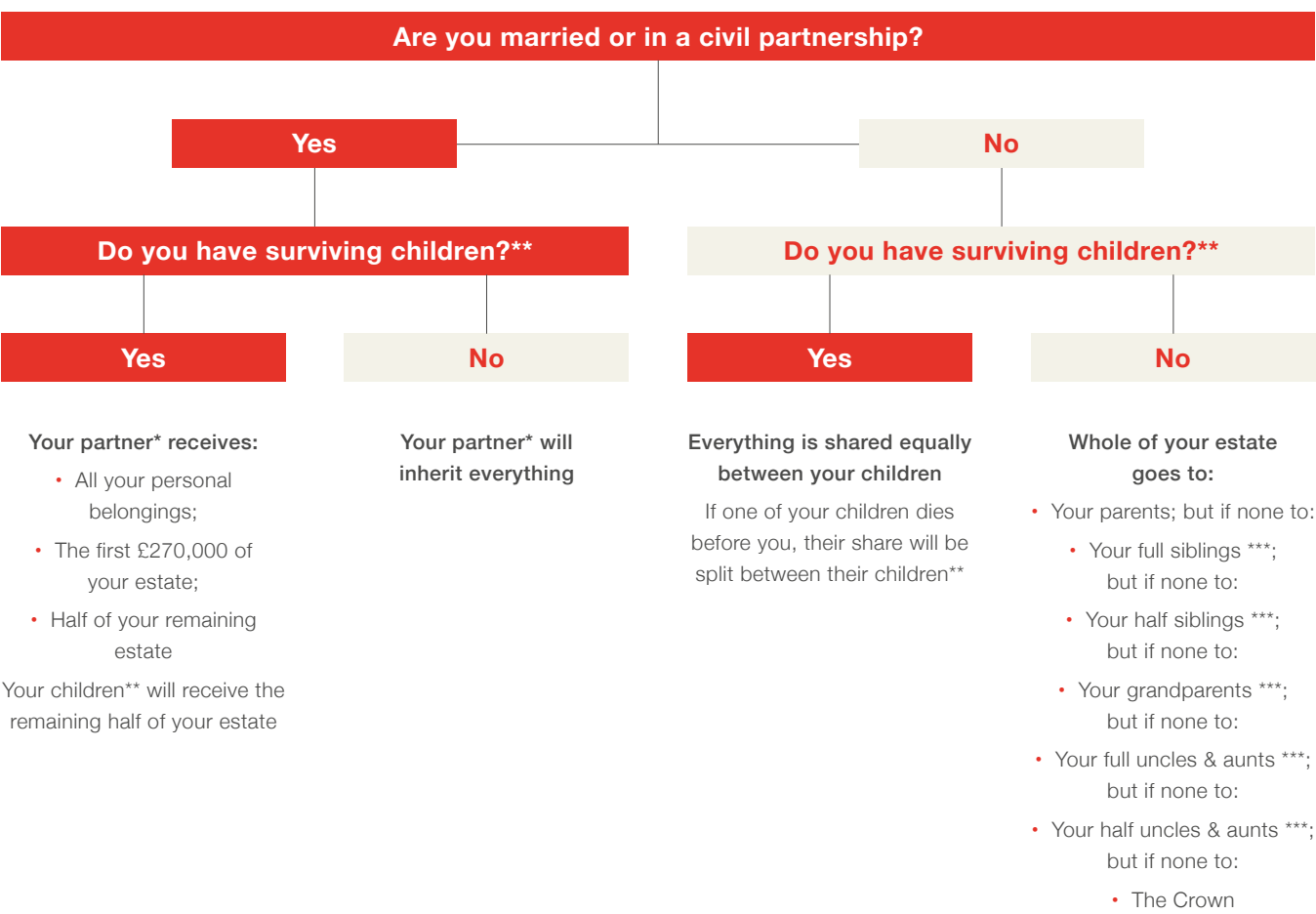
Reasons why you need a Will

- To specify how you want your estate to be distributed following your death.
- To give specific gifts to those who might otherwise receive nothing from your estate.
- To make provisions for your business and how it will be dealt with following your death.
- To protect your estate for future generations.
- To make best use of inheritance tax exemptions and reliefs.
- To clearly convey your wishes to help avoid family disputes.
- To appoint guardians to look after your children.
- To protect disabled or spend thrift beneficiaries.

Reasons to update your old Will

- If you have married since your last Will was made, as it may no longer be valid.
- If your financial position has changed.
- If you have had children or grandchildren since you made your last Will.
- If you have separated or divorced.
- If your property has increased in value.
- If a beneficiary of your Will has died.
- If a beneficiary’s circumstances have changed, such as becoming disabled or going through a divorce.
- To review changes in tax or succession legislation to consider the impact on your Will, if any.

What if you do not have a Will at the time of your death?



* 'Partner' in this context refers to your legal partner as a result of entering into marriage or a civil partnership.
** 'Children' in this context includes illegitimate and adopted children, but not step-children.
*** If those relatives were not living at the date of death but they left descendants who are, then those descendants would usually inherit the share their parent would have taken had they survived you.

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