

Unite Wills Service

BASIC WILL: DEFINITION

'A Last Will and Testament is a legal document which states who will inherit your estate (assets) once you pass away. A Will can be very complex depending on your circumstances. However the majority of people will only require a simple basic Will. When you make your Will you are known as the Testator or Testatrix (male/female). A Will gives legally binding directions to the Executors who the Testator/Testatrix has chosen to distribute their estate. If you do not make a Will then you would die intestate and therefore your estate would be distributed under the Intestacy rules which may not be to your wishes.'

A 'Basic Will' contains the following –

1. Identifies the Testator/Testatrix.
2. Revokes any previous Wills or testamentary depositions.
3. Appoints Executors to administer the estate.
4. Provides gifts (if specified, limited to two in number).
5. Names beneficiaries to inherit the estate.
6. Contains signature of the Testator/Testatrix.
7. Contains signatures of two witnesses (not related the Testator/Testatrix or mentioned within the Will).

Our online system has been designed to reflect the above features to enable the creation of a basic Will. Any feature exceeding the basic provisions above will cause the Will to become complex, and take creation of the Will outside of the online procedure. Examples of such features include –

1. A 'non-contest' clause (a gift in consequence of not challenging the Will for any reason).
2. Gifts which exceed two in number.
3. Property Protection Trusts (a specialist Trust designed to protect property from such things as Care Home fees).
4. Foreign and/or business and/or agricultural assets.
5. Any form of Trust (which is a legal vehicle for holding money for another person for a specific reason).
6. Complex distribution portions (for example where the estate is to be distributed in unequal portions or percentages).
7. Estates exceeding Inheritance Tax thresholds.

(Please note this list is not exhaustive, there are other features which would take the Will outside the 'Basic' category).

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