

# WILLS AND ESTATE PLANNING

## FACT SHEET

Nobody likes to think about making Wills, going into a Home or losing mental capacity but these things cannot be ignored without storing up problems for your family. Like an umbrella, you don't want to use it but you're glad you have one!

With our long experience in this work there aren't many problems we haven't seen before and we can give you sound advice on all aspects of estate planning.

### Our Commitment to You

We aim to provide a dedicated first class service to give you peace of mind for the future. We pride ourselves on the personal service we offer our clients. As a small firm we have a closer relationship with our clients than do many of the huge law firms now increasingly common, in many cases we have come to act for several generations in families because of this approach.

### What is Estate Planning?

Well, of course making a Will is a priority. If you don't have one the law sets out what happens to your estate and you might not like the results of this. Make a Will and YOU decide where your money goes.

Also a Will can:

- reduce Inheritance Tax
- shield your home from care fees

Prior to the appointment you may wish to consider the following matters:-

1. the persons you would like to benefit in your Will; and
2. the persons you may wish to appoint as your Executor/s. When a person dies somebody has to deal with their estate by collecting in all the money and assets, paying all debts and tax, and distributing what is left to those people entitled to it (this person is known as an Executor). This can be an onerous duty particularly at a difficult and emotional time. You might like to consider appointing Howard & Over to be your Executors, especially if your family could disagree over your estate. We will then make sure your wishes are kept.

### What does it cost?

We don't claim to be the cheapest but the best rarely is. Our fees are fair and realistic. You will know upfront what will be the cost with no nasty surprises later.

Our charges for advising on, drafting wills and preparing engrossments for signature depend on the complexity of the Will to be drafted. Our schedule of charges are as follows:-

Standard single Will	£180.00 + VAT
Married couples/civil partnership Wills	£300.00 + VAT
Codicil (where minor changes are required to an existing Will)	£120.00 + VAT
Married couple Codicil	£180.00 + VAT

The above includes standard clauses to appoint executors, specific legacies and gifts, disposal of residue, standard trustee powers clause, funeral directions and appointment of guardians for children where appropriate.

Additional charges will apply to wills where they are more complex such as additional clauses creating life interest trusts or creating a right to reside in a property. These are charged as follows:-

Single Will	£300.00 + VAT
Married couples/civil partnership Wills	£550.00 + VAT

Where advice on inheritance and tax planning is sought and a tax saving will including discretionary trusts or life interest trusts is required our charges would normally be calculated on the basis of time actually spent on dealing with the matter including e.g. attending you in interview, drafting the will and attending you to advise on the same and for signing the wills. The hourly rate is £150-£200 and our charges in this instance are likely to be in the region of £600 plus VAT.

We are ready to deal with any matters of this kind for you and guide you through the whole process.

To find out more ring one of our offices (details on the bottom of this leaflet). We have three branch offices (all with parking close by) and you can pick the one most convenient to you or can organise for a home visit.