



Making a will and appointing a Lasting Power of Attorney



Martlets
life-changing hospice care

Registered Charity No. 802145





"We are always happy to help people with information and advice on making a will and appointing a Lasting Power of Attorney. It is so satisfying to see the peace of mind and comfort that tackling these tasks brings to people because they know that their affairs are now in order."

– Niks Kent, Martlets Patient and Family Support Team Manager

Good reasons to make a will



Make your wishes known

Making a will and keeping it up-to-date gives you peace of mind. It means the people and causes that matter to you will be looked after in the way that you want. You can make financial provision for close family, include your funeral wishes and care for your pets.



Help your family and friends

If you have made a will your family and friends will know that they are acting on your wishes and it will help them to take care of your estate.



Protect your partner's rights

If you're not married, or not in a civil partnership, the only way to ensure your partner is looked after is by including them in your will.



Give your assets to the people and causes you care about

Without a will that sets out your wishes, what happens to your estate when you die will be decided by law. If you have written your will, you keep control.



Minimise inheritance tax

Having a will and including gifts to charities such as Martlets may reduce the amount of inheritance tax that needs to be paid on your estate.



Other things to think about

1. Tell people where your will is stored so they can find it.
2. Review your will especially when significant things happen such as retirement, divorce, estrangement from friends and family, the death of your partner, or the birth of grandchildren.
3. Make sure you have enough money in your estate to pay for the funeral and commemorations you want.
4. Think about who you want to name as your executor as they will be legally responsible for carrying out your wishes. You might want to appoint more than one. Make sure they are happy to act for you. An executor's duties can be time consuming and complex so you might want to appoint a solicitor in this capacity.
5. Gifts in wills matter to Martlets and you can include a gift to us in your will. 1 in 3 people we help are cared for thanks to gifts in wills.

Good reasons to appoint a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA)



Decide who will look after your interests

An LPA enables people you choose to decide who will look after you if you are no longer able to look after yourself. So your LPA, rather than the state, will decide where and how you are cared for.



Know that someone you trust will look after your affairs

You can appoint one or more LPA such as a family member, friend or solicitor. They will be involved in decisions made about you including managing your finances and property; arranging home care or choosing the right care home; approving your medical treatment and diet.



Know that who you appoint must legally act in your best interests

An LPA is legally bound to act in your best interests and has legal authority to make decisions for you too. This gives you peace of mind and gives them power to speak up for you.



Get your affairs in order before an illness worsens

Appointing an LPA gives you peace of mind that someone you trust will look after your interests if you no longer have mental capacity.



Other things to think about

1. The LPA application process can take several months and there are costs involved. It is important to consider whether appointing an LPA is the best course of action, and whether you have the time and money required.
2. There are two types of LPA: for property and financial affairs, and for health and welfare. You might need one or both and you might appoint different people for each.
3. You need to decide whether to make the application yourself or whether to use a solicitor or someone else to do it on your behalf.
4. You might be eligible for a reduction in, or exemption from, costs.
5. There might be better options that suit your needs such as using direct debits to manage your finances, or using a joint bank account with someone you trust.



Where to get help and advice on wills and LPAs

1. Visit the UK Government website pages - www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney and www.gov.uk/make-will
2. Contact a solicitor – there are many local solicitors who will write your will and set up a Lasting Power of Attorney. Use Yellow Pages or visit lawsociety.org.uk
3. Contact our patient and family support team – they will talk to you about your circumstances and choices, and provide information to help you make a decision. Ask at Martlets' reception or call 01273 273400.
4. Contact our Gifts in Wills Manager Gary Moyle – Gary can provide you with a list of local solicitors and offer more information about making a gift in your will to Martlets. Call 01273 718778 or email gary.moyle@martlets.org.uk Visit our website www.themartlets.org.uk/give-in-your-will

Important notice – the information provided in this leaflet does not constitute legal advice. We recommend you seek professional legal advice relating to your personal circumstances when making your will or appointing a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA).