



**Little Book  
about**

**Wills & Lasting  
Powers of  
Attorney**

**talbots**  
FOR LAW FOR LIFE

## Little Things...

can give you real peace of mind. By putting wills and lasting powers of attorney (LPA) in place as early as possible you know your wishes will be respected.

Everyone knows making a will is something we all need to do, yet so many of us just don't get around to it.

This little guide is designed to offer simple advice to help you understand the importance of making wills and LPAs, and the problems and conflicts they can help avoid.

But if you've got any questions or worries, either drop us an email at [enquiries@talbotslaw.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@talbotslaw.co.uk) or call us free on 0800 118 1500 to find out how we can help you.

### Why trust Talbots?

When you choose Talbots Law, you are in safe hands.

With over 25 years' experience helping individuals and families, we are experts in will writing. We're members of the Law Society Wills and Inheritance Quality Scheme (WIQS) and are all Dementia Friends. Many of the team are also members of the Society of Trusts and Estates Practitioners (STEP) and Solicitors for the Elderly (SFE).

We know that cost is a huge concern, which is why our highly competitive prices are fixed with you at the outset. A small investment now offers you peace of mind and protection for your loved ones.

## Little Things You Need to Know... about what we do

- 1 Your life – your way**  
No two people are the same – assets can range from minimal possessions to multiple properties – and everything in between. We will provide advice according to your own specific requirements.
- 2 The will-writing process**  
We take time to understand your circumstances: from who will inherit from your estate to any specific requests you have. When the will has been signed and witnessed, we'll hold on to the original for you, and give you a copy.
- 3 Lasting Powers of Attorney**  
We will guide you through the process of setting up LPAs that would allow someone you trust to make decisions on your behalf, but only if you lose the capacity to do so yourself.

// Thank you for all your help and kindness shown. You made something I had been dreading so much easier for me. //

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## Why make a will?

### **Choose who gets what**

You decide who gets your property, your money, your possessions. It doesn't matter how much or how little you have, you decide who gets what.

### **Provide for those you leave behind**

Making a will ensures your children are looked after by someone you trust.

### **Choose who handles your estate**

You choose your executor – someone that you know and trust who will carry out your wishes.

### **Choose how to say goodbye**

Set out your funeral wishes and your executor will follow those instructions – whether it's an eco-friendly cardboard box or a coach and horses with a procession following.

### **Protect your assets**

A well-drafted will can substantially reduce the inheritance tax liability that might be payable, ensuring that more of your money and assets pass to your family.

You can also leave a legacy to charity. This is the perfect time to think about helping others once you've gone. At Talbots, we support Birmingham Children's Hospital but you can, of course, select the charity that's most important to you.

Once you've made a will ... don't forget to keep it up to date.

A change in circumstances might mean a change to your will.

Call us now on **0800 118 1500** for a quotation and for the answers to any questions you might have.

## The benefits of a Lasting Power of Attorney

### **Plan for the unexpected**

We believe that it's not about expecting the unexpected – it's about planning for it. An LPA gives authority to someone you trust completely to act on your behalf if you become incapable of doing so.

### **Choose now who would look after your affairs in the future**

If you have an accident, or if your mental health deteriorates, you can make the choice of who you would want to handle your affairs.

### **Choose an LPA for your finances or for your health – or both**

An LPA for your finances takes care of what happens to your property and financial affairs. A health & welfare LPA covers your personal welfare - this includes where you live, who you live with, visitors, medical treatment, and care services. You can choose now to restrict what an attorney could and couldn't do.

### **Give guidance on how your affairs should be handled**

You can write a personal statement to accompany your LPA. It gives guidance on how you would like your affairs to be managed, what considerations your attorneys should keep in mind, and who they should consult for further guidance.

### **Ensure that your affairs are dealt with properly**

Your attorney will keep accounts for all financial decisions. You can ask for regular updates to be given to you, or to your solicitor, or to another member of your family, so that you have that extra layer of protection.

Ask about our fixed price LPA/Will package deal

# Some common little myths about wills...

## **Making a will is really complicated & expensive**

It really couldn't be easier – our team ensure legal jargon is kept to a minimum. We're there every step of the way to make sure your will is exactly what you want. And for a lot less money than you think!

## **If I make a will, I'm tempting fate...**

In reality, it makes no difference to your life expectancy whether you make a will or not. But at least you can be sure your possessions and money go where you want them to go.

## **We're married, so we don't need a will**

There are legal rules that apply to distributing an estate where there's no will. For lower value estates (less than £250,000), it's true that it will normally pass to the surviving spouse. But if the assets are larger, then the rules will distribute part of it to the spouse, and divide the rest among the children.

## **We're not married, so we don't need a will**

Unmarried partners have no automatic right to the other's estate. Only by making a will can you ensure that your assets are left to the person you want to benefit.

## **We're separated – my spouse won't receive anything**

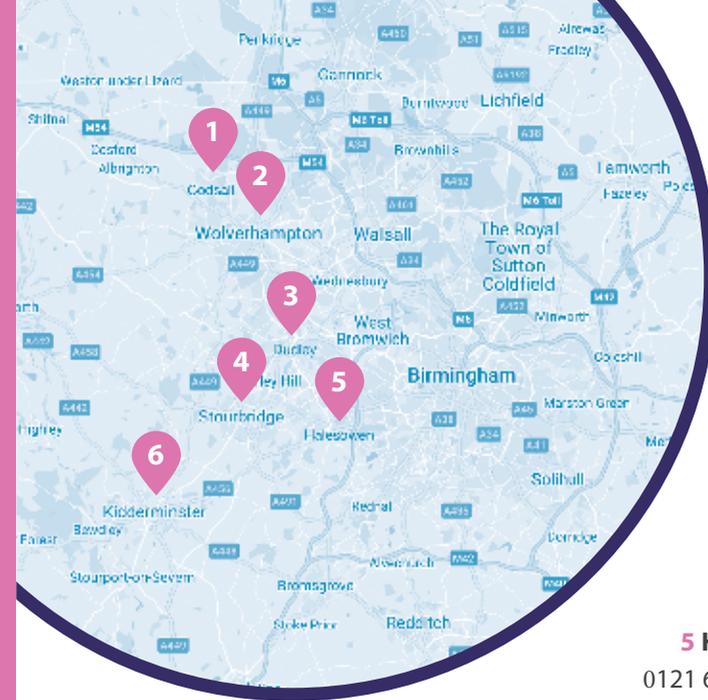
If you die intestate then part, if not all, your estate will pass to your spouse. It's only the Decree Absolute in the divorce proceedings that prevents a spouse from benefiting.

## **Where there's no will**

Dying intestate (without a will) results in the law deciding who will inherit your estate and look after your children, and will also mean that any charities and friends may be prevented from benefiting.

## **Where there's a DIY will...**

A DIY will could be a false economy – it may not meet legal requirements in order to be valid. It may use language that is confusing or ambiguous. Worse still, the will might not reflect your wishes, potentially leading to family disputes and inadequate provision for a loved one.



## **Where are we?**

**1 Codsall**  
01902 843427

**2 Wolverhampton**  
01902 427561

**3 Dudley**  
01384 447777

**4 Stourbridge**  
01384 445850

**5 Halesowen**  
0121 647 3970

**6 Kidderminster**  
01562 749910

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**Personal Injury**  
**Wills, Trusts and Probate**

**Call our New Enquiries  
Team on 0800 118 1500**

Talbots Law promote a Law for Life service unlike any other and see our clients not as customers but as life long friends.

We provide a service you can trust and hope that in return you will choose us again.

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supporting  
**Birmingham Children's Hospital  
Charity**  
Doing more for sick kids

