

Not just for a rainy day

Lawyers are often asked, 'Why make a Will?'. In truth, there are many reasons why making a Will is not just a good idea but an essential safeguard for you and your family. Private client partner James McMullan, of London law firm RIAA Barker Gillette, takes a closer look



If someone dies without leaving a valid Will, they're said to have died 'intestate' so that their estate will devolve under the Intestacy Rules, as set out in the Administration of Estates Act 1925. However, since 1925, the Intestacy Rules have only been subject to minor updates, and society has moved on considerably. These days, 'families' are much more complex.

Under the Intestacy Rules, unless you're married or in a civil partnership, your partner will receive no part of your estate on your death; nor will your stepchildren. Instead, your partner must claim against your estate under the Inheritance (provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975, a costly and stressful process that usually leaves a trail of damaged relationships where no one is the winner except the lawyers.

While none of us like to contemplate our own demise, sitting down with a qualified solicitor or Will drafter is sensible estate planning. You get to decide who shares in your estate and to what

extent — and even to choose your children's guardians.

At RIAA Barker Gillette, the team analyse your domestic and financial position and advise you on the best form of Will that meets your family's needs and ensure full use of any available tax reliefs and exemptions. Ideally, a couple should undertake this exercise together. However, there may be circumstances where this is not possible due to more complex family arrangements and a potential conflict of interest.

As you go through life's journey, your circumstances will change. Relationships break up; new ones form; children grow up and fly the nest, and your priorities will change accordingly. Therefore, it's vital to keep your Will under review



JAMES MCMULLAN

RIAA Barker Gillette will draft your Will according to your wishes and consider all tax advantages before your Will is signed and executed, giving you peace of mind and protecting your loved ones from potential disputes.

each year, particularly on a major life-changing event such as birth, marriage, divorce, death, disability, major windfall, etc.

To find out more

Speak to James McMullan today.

Visit: riaabarkergillette.com

riaabarkergillette.com/uk/our-expertise/for-individuals/wills-tax-trusts-and-estate-planning

**RIAA
Barker
Gillette**