



As the leaves turn, is it time to review your Will?

By Jonathan Baum, Director of Wills and Probate

There is something about autumn that makes many of us pause.

The evenings draw in and the trees along our streets swap green for gold. It is a season of change and a gentle reminder that another year is quietly slipping by.

For many of us, it is also a natural moment to take stock and your Will is one of the most important documents to revisit – especially after a busy summer.

Life moves on and so should your Will

A Will is not something to write once and forget, as it needs to reflect your wishes and life rarely stands still.

Marriage is a good example. In England and Wales, getting married or entering a civil partnership automatically revokes an existing Will, unless it was made with that marriage in mind.

This is something that catches many people out, especially if they remarry later in life, but it can leave loved ones in a difficult position.

Divorce brings its own complications once it is finalised. It may sound dramatic but a former spouse is generally treated as having died for the purposes of your Will, but your other arrangements may no longer reflect your wishes. Separation without divorce has no such effect at all.

Growing families, changing priorities

The arrival of children or grandchildren is often when people first think seriously about the future and their legacy to the next generation. You may want to appoint guardians or set up trusts so younger family members are properly provided for.

Equally, children grow up and circumstances shift, so someone you named as an executor 10 years ago may no longer be the right choice.

Finally, your finances and property may look very different today than it did five years ago.

There is no fixed rule for when you have to update a Will, but it is generally recommended that you do it after major life events or every five years.

A small task with lasting value

Updating your Will need not take long, but reviewing and amending it can offer real peace of mind that your wishes are carried out correctly.

So as the leaves begin to fall, why not make this the season you check your Will is still right for you? The team at Hethertons is always happy to help, so get in touch for a friendly chat.



Please contact Jonathan Baum, Director of Wills & Probate, on 01904 528380 or at jmb@hethertons.co.uk
hethertons.co.uk