



Glossary of Legal Terms

Here we explain the main legal terms associated with making a Will.

Administrator(s) = People who deal with the administration of an estate where there is no Will or where there is no Executor.

Beneficiary = Anyone who will benefit from your Will.

Bequest = A gift made in your Will.

Codicil = A further document making a change, or adding to, an existing Will.

Estate = The total of what you leave

Executor(s) = The people appointed in the Will to manage your estate after your death.

Inheritance Tax = A tax that may be due on part of your estate after your death.

Intestacy = Dying without making a valid Will. A person is said to die intestate.

Pecuniary gift = A specific sum of money

Probate = Procedure whereby it is established formally whether you left a valid Will and who your administrators or Executors will be.

Residuary gift = A share of the estate after payment of debts, expenses, tax and any pecuniary gifts have been distributed.

Specific gift = A specific item, which is a tangible asset, such as jewellery.

The State = Where your money (your estate) goes if you did not make a valid Will and you have no surviving spouse, blood relatives or dependents – in reality it means the Treasury.

Testator = You (the person making the Will)