



# WHY HAVE A **WILL** AND **LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY (LPA)**?

## Why make a **Will**?

A Will is a **legal document** that sets out **what happens to your assets and possessions after your death**.

Without one, the law decides who inherits your estate, which **may not reflect your wishes**.

### Key benefits of having a Will:

- **Control** – You choose who inherits your property, money, and personal belongings.
- **Protect your family** – Ensure your spouse, partner, or children are provided for.
- **Appoint Guardians** – Decide who will look after your children if they are under 18.
- **Reduce disputes** – Clear instructions help avoid disagreements between family members.
- **Tax Planning** – A well-drafted Will can help reduce inheritance tax.
- **Appoint Executors** – Choose trusted people to manage your estate.



## Why set up a **Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA)**?

An LPA is a **legal document** that **allows you to appoint trusted individuals (called Attorneys) to make decisions on your behalf if you become unable to do so yourself**, whether through illness, accident, or loss of mental capacity.

### Types of LPA:

- **Property and Financial Affairs LPA** – Covers decisions about money, property, and assets (e.g. managing bank accounts, paying bills, selling property).
- **Health and Welfare LPA** – Covers decisions about medical treatment, care, and living arrangements.

### Key benefits of having an LPA:

- **Peace of Mind** – Know that your affairs will be managed by people you trust.
- **Avoid court delays** – Without an LPA, family may need to apply to court, which is costly and time-consuming.
- **Flexibility** – Attorneys can act immediately (with your consent) or only if you lose capacity.
- **Personal wishes respected** – Ensure decisions about your health and finances are made according to your values.

# WHAT HAPPENS WITHOUT THEM?

## What happens without them?

- **Without a Will** – The law of intestacy decides who inherits. This may exclude unmarried partners, stepchildren, or close friends.
- **Without an LPA** – Your loved ones may have to apply to the Court of Protection to make decisions for you, which is expensive, slow, and stressful.

## NEXT STEPS

- Review your personal and family circumstances.
- Consider who you would like to act as Executors (for your Will) and Attorneys (for your LPA).
- Seek professional advice to ensure your documents are valid and tailored to your needs.

