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## I have made my Will - what do I need to do now?

Now you have made your Will, you need to do three things:

1. Make sure your Will is correctly signed and witnessed so that it is legally binding;
2. Register your Will with Certainty Will Register;
3. Store your Will in a safe place.

Leech & Co will help you through this process.

### 1. Signing and Witnessing the Will

For a Will to be legally binding, the signature of the person making the Will (called the Testator) must be witnessed by two independent people. **A Will is not valid unless it is signed by both the Testator and two witnesses.** Signing and witnessing the Will must take place at the same appointment.

### What is the process for signing and witnessing the Will?

- i. **Signing the Will** - in the presence of two independent witnesses, you must sign and date your Will (or acknowledge to the witnesses that it is your signature on the Will). You must write clearly and in ink, but do not attach any other documents to the Will, as this could make it invalid.

- ii. **The two witnesses must then sign and date the Will.** The witnesses will need to confirm their name, address and occupation. However, they don't have to read the Will or know what's in it.

The witnesses are confirming that:

- The person who wrote the Will is the person signing it
- The signature isn't forged
- The person hasn't been coerced into signing the Will
- The person has mental capacity to understand what they are signing.

### Who can act as a witness?

The witnesses must be independent and impartial. **This means that the following cannot be witnesses to the Will:**

- The spouse or civil partner of the person making the Will
- A Beneficiary of the Will i.e. the people who will inherit from the Will
- The spouse or Civil Partner of a Beneficiary

N.B. An executor of the Will can witness the Will if they are not a Beneficiary

**A neighbour or family friend is an ideal witness, but if two independent witnesses aren't available, then let us know and we can arrange the witnesses for you.**

We will arrange the appointment for your Will to be witnessed at your home or workplace and we will discuss all issues with you before the appointment. We aim to make the signing and witnessing of your Will an easy, straightforward process.

## 2. Register your Will with Certainty Will Register

We will register your Will with **Certainty Will Register** so you don't need to worry about doing this. The cost of registering your Will (£30.00) is included within the cost of making your Will so there is no additional charge to you. Not all solicitors provide this service, but we feel it is essential. The benefit of registering your Will is that, when the time comes, your relatives and loved ones have the peace of mind to know they can locate and obtain a copy of your will quickly and easily.

## 3. Store your Will in a safe place

When your Will has been signed, witnessed and registered, we will provide a copy to you to be kept by you and/or your Executors in a safe place. However, as well as registering your Will (see above), we will also store your original Will (a paper copy and an electronic copy) so that your Will can be easily located and obtained. The cost for storing your Will is included within the cost of making your Will so there is no additional charge to you.

Full details about all of the above can be found on our website - [www.leechandco.co.uk](http://www.leechandco.co.uk) - or simply call us on 0161 749 9000. We're more than happy to talk things through with you and answer any of your questions.

Leech & Co Solicitors have prepared this factsheet to help you make your Will. It contains general advice only. The content of this factsheet should not be used to make a decision or take an action without further legal advice.