

What's the effect on my Will....

... of marriage?

Any marriage revokes your Will, whether it's your first, second or tenth marriage, so speak to Wansbroughs before your big day. We can include specific wording in your Will to ensure it won't be revoked on your wedding day, giving you peace of mind as you set off on your exotic honeymoon.

... of divorce?

Once your decree absolute comes through, your ex-spouse is treated as dead for the purposes of your Will. The Will remains valid but no gifts to your former spouse take effect. However, prior to the decree absolute you may need to review your Will. The same is true for your parents and anyone else who might want to leave you something under their Will, while ensuring your soon-to-be ex-spouse doesn't get their hands on it.

And how about my children....

.... guardians?

You can appoint guardians for your children in your Will in the event that both parents die whilst they are under 18. On the death of the first parent, the surviving parent assumes sole parental responsibility. This usually remains the case even after a divorce, i.e. even if your children live with just you now, if you die then the surviving parent assumes sole parental responsibility.

... sharing my estate between my new spouse and my children?

If you have remarried then you might be asking yourself how best to divide your estate between your new spouse and your children from a previous marriage. Addressing this question now, sorting it out in your Will (and, even better, discussing it with your family!) can avoid bitter, costly disputes after your death.

One way to address the issue is to leave your new spouse a lifetime interest in your estate (i.e. they can live in any property you own and enjoy any income from your estate for the remainder of their lifetime). Your Will can then state that on the death of your new spouse the capital of your estate is divided between your children. In this way, your new spouse is looked after during their lifetime but your children's interests are not forgotten.

The best advice we can offer is to speak to a qualified solicitor who can help and advise you with the preparation of your Will. We here at Wansbroughs would be more than happy to assist with any queries you have so please contact us on 01380 733 300 or email us at wealth@wansbroughs.com.

This guide is for information only and is not a substitute for taking legal advice.