



85% HAVE NOT NAMED AN ATTORNEY TO MANAGE THEIR AFFAIRS

56% DO NOT HAVE A WILL

Simple steps now to ease the pressure on your family

New research carried out by the charitable will-writing campaign, [Will Aid](#) – which we support and work with - found that **only 15% of people in the UK have appointed an “attorney” to make medical and financial decisions on their behalf** if they are struck down by illness, accident or injury.

This is a serious issue as, for example, one person in the UK now develops dementia every three minutes, presenting serious practical challenges and pressures for all around them that we can help you manage.

If you are one of the 85% who have not made a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) - the legal document that identifies who they want to manage their personal welfare and fiscal affairs if you become incapacitated – **we can help you deal with that now.**

Peter de Vena Franks, campaign director for Will Aid, said the statistics show that a large number of families could avoid a lot of financial and emotional strain by making an LPA before health declines.

“A lasting power of attorney is a way of giving someone you trust the legal authority to make decisions on your behalf if you cannot do so yourself at some stage in your life in the future. Many people incorrectly assume that their family members could step in if needed, but that is not the case. Relatives can't just walk into a bank and access the money you will need from your account, even if it is to pay for your care. They need to be authorised by you.

Unless you have granted them a Power of Attorney, loved ones will need to apply through court to be able to manage your money and more, which can be long and costly.

Will Aid has long campaigned for people to have a professional will in place as the best way to ensure that wishes are met and loved ones are cared for. But it's also vital to consider making a Lasting Power of Attorney for when you are unable to make decisions for yourself.

A will, combined with an LPA, is the best way to make sure that your affairs get handled the way you want – both while you are alive and after you are gone.”

Our clients very often make a Lasting Power of Attorney at the same time as making a will. You need to choose who you trust and want to appoint to look after your affairs — your attorney —and have that formal document registered with the Office of the Public Guardian.

There are two types of LPA, so we can advise on the best approach for you.

- **The health and welfare version** covers decisions such as whether you should go into a nursing home.



- **The property and financial affairs version** gives your attorney the power to pay your bills, move your money around and even decide on whether to sell your home.

Mr de Vena Franks said: *“It can be very difficult to think about circumstances like these – just as it is hard to have conversations about death and dying but these are important decisions and they shouldn’t be left unaddressed. The last year has shown us how fragile life is and we have had to learn lessons about how to protect ourselves better. A will is just an extension to this.”*

Protect and inform your family - ease their pain and stress with a Will

- Of those questioned, **56% have no will** even though more than half had been prompted to think more about how to protect their loved ones in the event of their death as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.
- **More than 30% said they were actively looking to make a will this year** as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Will Aid is a great opportunity to make this happen, raising money for much-needed charity work too because our solicitors will donate time in lieu of fees provided that you make a donation to the Will Aid charity.

As Peter de Vena Franks says:

“Will Aid provides the perfect opportunity to get your paperwork in order and at the same time, directly support the life-saving work of nine of the UK’s best-loved charities. You can make a Will with our participating solicitors throughout the month of November. Solicitors volunteer their time to charity to write wills for members of the public. Instead of paying the usual fee for the will, you are asked to make a voluntary donation to Will Aid.”

Will Aid raises money for nine of the UK’s best-loved charities: ActionAid, British Red Cross, Christian Aid, NSPCC, Save The Children, Sightsavers, Age UK, SCIAF (Scotland) and Trocaire (Northern Ireland).

The suggested voluntary donation for your basic Will Aid will is £100 for a single will and £180 for a pair of mirror wills.

If you want to book an appointment to make a will and to consider making a Lasting Power of Attorney during November just call us on 0800 6785136 or email us at info@sunnyfieldssolicitors.co.uk

For more information please visit www.willaid.co.uk