

Protecting & Passing On Your Wealth

Whilst most people don't like to plan too far into the future or contemplate the inevitable, we all need to make sure our loved ones are looked after. Just spending a few hours preparing a simple will avoids a lot of unnecessary heartache and stress for family and close friends at what is always a very difficult time. Stephensons has vast experience in making wills, dealing with associated tax issues and administering estates of any size speedily and efficiently. We will help you to protect your own assets in later life and to pass on as much as possible to those you care about.



We can help with

Wills

We can prepare any type of will. These may be relatively straightforward wills for single persons, married couples or single parents wishing, for example, to appoint guardians for children under a will. Wills can be drafted with complex family situations where, for example, step-families are involved, to ensure fairness for all. Wills can also be used to protect the family home from being sold to pay nursing home fees. Alternatively, we also have the experience and capability to prepare more complex wills, dealing with issues of tax planning for high net-worth individuals.

Olwen Williams Partner

A member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners. Appointed to the Court of Protection Receivers Panel.



Inheritance tax

Inheritance tax was once viewed as a tax on the wealthy. However, rising house prices in recent years have led more and more people to become concerned over the possible implications of inheritance tax. Anyone with total assets - including property, jewellery, savings etc - worth more than £312,000 will be subject to 40% tax, and there is no upper limit on the value of your estate that can be taxed. Inheritance tax has to be settled before your assets can be paid out to your beneficiaries, which means that your estate effectively bears the tax. If you are concerned that inheritance tax may apply to your estate, we can provide advice on how to increase your tax efficiency and minimise the impact for your family and other beneficiaries.

Administration of estates and probate

When a close member of the family dies, it can be difficult to sort out his or her financial affairs. We handle matters sympathetically and efficiently. We are happy to take all the worry from the executors or next-of-kin and administer the full estate. Alternatively, we can just obtain the grant of probate so that the executors can complete the administration themselves.

Court of Protection and Lasting Powers of Attorney

We work on behalf of persons who are unable to manage their financial affairs and property because of mental incapacity through injury or disability. We are able to act as independent receivers and attorneys if there is no family member able to take the burden. We are regularly involved in the preparation of lasting powers of attorney for clients, appointing family members to act as attorneys to assist with the financial affairs and property of, for instance, elderly relatives who are having difficulty managing their own affairs. This is a complex area of law and requires specialist legal help.

Property

Property is an area subject to changing government regulations - particularly affecting nursing home fees and inheritance tax. There can be a number of significant implications when giving property away. We advise clients about deeds of gift, which we can prepare and register on your behalf at the land registry.

Trust Deeds

We can provide advice on deeds of trust and settlements, particularly those resulting from accident compensation claims.

Key facts about us

- Our team comprises 4 dedicated specialists with over 35 years' combined experience, together with helpful and sympathetic support staff.
- We work with you to thoroughly understand your financial situation and advise on the most efficient and cost-effective ways of protecting and passing on your wealth.
- We are always willing to accommodate clients who may have difficulty getting to our offices, offering home, hospital and residential home visits in certain cases.

Affiliations

We are active members of key associations and professional organisations:

- Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners
- Court of Protection Panel of Independent Receivers

Contact us

Please feel free to contact us if you would like further information on any aspect of our work.

Our friendly team is always on hand to help and advise you. We can be contacted directly on:

01942 777777

www.stephensons.co.uk

About Stephenson's

Stephenson's provides legal advice for all aspects of your personal or business life. By understanding your circumstances and keeping the red-tape to ourselves, we focus on efficiently delivering what you need, when you need it. Operating from a number of regional locations, we rank among the top 100 UK law firms and are one of the fastest growing practices in the north west. With over 400 staff, you can trust our specialists to take care of things on your behalf, always putting your best interests first. So, for legal advice and action the way you want it, just turn to Stephenson's.