

Wills and Guardianship for Children

Make sure that you have a say in who looks after your children, if you can't...

Many of you may have a Will, and many of you have protected your future with a Lasting Power of Attorney, but are you up to date and have you protected your children's future?

Did you know...

...for example, that if you do not state in your Will who you wish to take care of your children, in the event of your death, the Court will decide.

This process can take time and could involve any number of people who you do not wish to be involved in your Child's care, including any relatives that express an interest, and social workers, amongst other welfare professionals and foster parents.

Inheritance Laws...

...furthermore, once your children reach 18yrs, they will automatically inherit your estate. What would you have done with any inheritance you received at 18? Something sensible? Perhaps, perhaps not!

What are your options, as a parent?

- You should have a Will prepared professionally, including a Guardianship clause that states who you would like to oversee your children's affairs
- Include a simple Children's Trust that allows your child access to their funds on request, but will hold the bulk of the estate back until they reach your preferred age (such as 21yrs or 25yrs)
- Write a memorandum of wishes stating your preferences as to how your Guardians should bring up your child, which should be stored with your Will.