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**fluid thinking.
clear solutions.**

Putting your personal affairs in order

Putting your personal affairs in order will often involve organising your finances to maximise the value of your assets, thereby preserving your wealth for both you and your family.

Good personal management is not just about looking after the financial side of your estate. It also means arranging your affairs to provide you and your family with peace of mind.

Having a valid Will which has been tailored to your particular circumstances is a good starting point.

At Penningtons we are experienced in helping people to put their personal affairs in order. As well as being equipped with specialist legal knowledge, we recognise that everyone values a friendly, personal service.

Why should I make a Will?

Having a valid Will ensures that your assets will pass to the people you want to benefit.

It also gives you the opportunity to choose executors and guardians and to make provision, where suitable, for tax planning on your death.

We can use our specialist knowledge to advise you on a Will to suit your circumstances.

When should I review my Will?

It is important that you review your Will regularly, taking account of changing family and financial circumstances and changes in the law.

We are always happy to give your Will a health check for a fixed fee.

What about tax planning?

Our aim is to minimise the amount of tax paid by you or your estate and thereby maximise the assets passing down to generations of your family.

Tax planning can be incorporated into your Will to take effect on death, but you can also take action during your lifetime.

How does one go about administering an estate?

The job of administering an estate can be both onerous and exacting and all too often proves to be a thankless task. Our probate specialists will help you to administer an estate and ensure that it progresses smoothly and quickly.

Should I appoint an attorney?

Yes, while you have capacity to do so, it is strongly advised that you appoint someone to deal with your finances (under a Property and Affairs Lasting Power of Attorney) or to take health and welfare decisions on your behalf (under a Personal Welfare Lasting Power of Attorney) should you become mentally incapable of making these decisions for yourself in the future. At that stage it will be too late to appoint an attorney.

Should I make an Advance Decision?

An Advance Decision allows you to make a decision now to refuse specified medical treatment at a time in the future when you lack capacity to be able to consent to that treatment. This can include a refusal to accept life-sustaining treatment.

Can you advise me about my family trusts?

The law in relation to trusts and particularly the taxation of trusts is continually developing and changing. We are happy to review any family trusts and to advise you on any changes should they be necessary.

We are also able to advise on whether the creation of a family trust would be appropriate in your circumstances.

What advice can you give the elderly?

The increasing cost of providing residential care is a growing concern for many elderly people. Having spent a lifetime building up savings and paying for a house, it is distressing to think that it will not be passed to future generations.

We can provide advice on preserving assets, thereby enabling some or all to be passed to family members or other nominated individuals or organisations.

When an application to the Court of Protection is necessary, for example, where an attorney has not been appointed and it is too late to do so, we can prepare the paperwork for you and help you to manage that person's affairs. This may involve making an application to the Court to make a new Will, completing annual returns and generally reorganising their finances.

Should you require any further information please contact:

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