

Letter of Wishes

Your Letter of Wishes guides your executors

You can write several Letters of Wishes to different people giving instructions on how your affairs should be handled.

A Letter of Wishes will:

- Help your executors by listing your main assets.
- Help executors identify specific items listed in your Will.
- Give instructions for your burial or cremation.
- Guide executors on the management of Trusts.
- Provide evidence to defend claims by dependants who challenge the Will.
- Clearly indicate where you want your assets to be distributed.

Easy to keep up dated

A Letter of Wishes compliments a Will but it not legally binding. Contents of a Letter of Wishes may include:

- Lists of assets (including bank accounts, insurance policies and shares).
- Lists of valuable items and guidance on the distribution of chattels.
- Access details and passwords for computer systems.
- Images and descriptions of items mentioned in your Will.
- Special instructions for your burial or cremation.
- Details of the type of ceremony you want.
- Guidance on the management of Trusts mentioned in your Will.
- Directions to the guardians of your children should they be under 18.

A sample letter

Should be marked: Private & Confidential

Title: Letter of Wishes

To: The Executors of my Will

Details:

- Listing of assets and special instructions relating to these.
- Any charities you wish to support.
- Funeral details and special requests.
- Instructions for dealing with a discretionary Trust (if applicable).

Storing your Letter of Wishes

It should be stressed that a Letter of Wishes cannot replace a Will as it is not legally binding. A copy of the letter should be lodged with your solicitor along with your Will, with a further copy to be kept with your own records.

Updating a Letter of Wishes

Updating this document is very easy and is not expensive as it is to amend a Will. You are free to change your Letter of Wishes as often as you see fit. Updated copies must always be lodged with your solicitor.

Other issues to consider

A Letter of Wishes can also include your requests regarding organ donation.