

# HOW TO WRITE AND UPDATE A WILL WHILST SOCIAL DISTANCING

## WRITING YOUR WILL



- Social distancing needn't stop you – solicitors often take instructions over the phone and some offer video calls
- Before seeing your solicitor, try to work out the value of what you own – think about all your assets and any debts too
- When planning who to leave money or gifts to, think about who has been important to you – you can also include a gift to a group or charity you've been inspired by
- When choosing an executor, pick someone who is business-minded if possible
- Your Will has to be signed and dated by you in the presence of two witnesses, who also need to sign and date it

## SIGNING YOUR WILL



- For your Will to be legally valid, you need two witnesses aged over 18 to sign it
- The witnesses must be independent from you, but they don't need to be independent from each other, so you could ask a husband and wife
- Ask your witnesses to sign below your signature, as it shows they signed after you
- Consider social distancing – why not sign outside or through a window so you can keep to the recommended distance apart? Alternatively, you can now get your [Will witnessed remotely](#), so a video link may be another option
- And make sure to use separate pens and wash your hands before and afterwards

## AFTER YOUR WILL IS WRITTEN



- Store it safely – your solicitor or Her Majesty's Court Service can look after it for you
- Review it every five years or after any change in your life, like getting married or divorced
- To make small changes to your Will, you can add what's called a "codicil"
- To make larger changes, it's best to write a new one
- You can use a codicil to update your Will with a gift to a chosen charity

## USEFUL CONTACTS



The GOV.UK website – for information on how to write or update a Will - [www.gov.uk/make-will](http://www.gov.uk/make-will)

Brooke – to find out more about leaving a gift in your Will to Brooke, please contact our Legacy team by emailing [legacies@thebrooke.org](mailto:legacies@thebrooke.org), by calling 0207 470 9343 or visit [thebrooke.org/legacies](http://thebrooke.org/legacies)

Please be aware that this is for information only and not intended to be legal advice. Please make sure you seek legal advice before putting these measures in place as the requirements to make a Will legal may change.