



# Things to do before you go to your solicitor

---

**Before you visit your solicitor, it is a good idea to**

**1. Consider what your estate is worth**

List all your significant possessions, such as your house, car, savings and insurance and other items of value.

**2. Think about who you would like to [benefit](#) from your estate.**

Once you have taken care of those people closest to you, you may want to consider leaving a gift in your will to charities you have supported in your lifetime or those you always wanted to support and never quite got round to.

**3. Decide which sort of gift to leave.**

You choose which sort of gift to leave. A share of your estate (known as a [residuary](#) gift) is reasonably inflation-proof. An amount of money (a [pecuniary](#) gift) or [specific](#) items are also options to consider. You can also give property or land as well as money or investments to charity. Most of them have ways to get the best value from such gifts.

**4. Choose who you want to act as your [executors](#).**

You can have between one and four people who are responsible to ensure that the wishes within your will are carried out. You need to be satisfied they are happy and able to do this. You could choose your bank, your solicitor, or willing friends or relatives to fulfil this important role.

**5. Make a list of any questions you may want to ask your solicitor.**

Try to think of the things you want the solicitor to explain, or any things that might be worrying you. Considering them before you go will save both you and your solicitor time and is more likely to ensure a satisfactory answer.

**6. Keeping your will up to date.**

You can update your will at any time to reflect changes in your circumstances - such as the sale of your house, or the death of friends or loved ones. Your solicitor can advise you on the best way to change your will - either by re-writing it or by adding a [codicil](#).