INHERITANCE PLANNING COMPANY

What Happens if You Die Without a Will?

Dying without a will—known as dying intestate—means the government decides who inherits your estate according to strict legal rules. These intestacy rules may not reflect your personal wishes, leaving loved ones vulnerable to financial and emotional hardship.

The Rules of Intestacy

The division of your estate depends on your family structure at the time of your death. Here's an overview of how the rules apply in England and Wales:

Married or Civil Partners with Children:

The spouse inherits the first £270,000 of the estate and personal belongings.

The remainder is split equally between the spouse and children.

Married or Civil Partners Without Children:

The spouse inherits the entire estate.

Single with Children:

The estate is divided equally among the children.

Single Without Children:

The estate goes to surviving parents, followed by siblings, nieces, nephews, or distant relatives. If no relatives exist, the estate passes to the Crown.

Note: Co-habiting partners, stepchildren, and close friends have no legal claim under intestacy rules.

Potential Problems

Unintended Beneficiaries:

Your estate may pass to relatives you had little or no relationship with.

Financial Hardship for Co-habitees :

Property A long-term partner may receive nothing without a will, even if you've shared a home for decades.

Family Conflict:

Without clear instructions, disputes between family members may arise over the distribution of assets.

Higher Legal Costs :

The absence of a will often leads to prolonged and costly estate administration processes.

How to Avoid Intestacy

The simplest way to protect your loved ones is to write a legally valid will. Here's how we can help:

Tailored Wills:

Ensure your estate is distributed according to your wishes.

Protect Your Partner:

Co-habiting couples can safeguard their partner's inheritance through proper planning.

Minimise Disputes:

Avoid family conflicts by clearly outlining your intentions.

Real-Life Scenario: A Cautionary Tale

John and Sarah's Story:

John and Sarah lived together for 15 years but never married or wrote wills. When John passed away unexpectedly, Sarah discovered she had no legal claim to their jointly owned home. Instead, John's estranged brother inherited everything, leaving Sarah at risk of eviction.

Ready to Protect Your Loved Ones?

Contact us today to create a will and ensure your estate is handled according to your wishes. Don't let intestacy laws dictate your legacy.

Disclaimer:

This information is correct as of September 2024. Legal updates or changes may have occurred since then. For the most current advice, please contact **Inheritance Planning Company Ltd** at:

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