

Memorandum of Wishes

Although the document is not legally binding it allows you to give the Executors guidance in distributing sentimental items that seem to be insignificant in relation to the important legacies stated in the Will. All of these instructions can be included on your Memorandum of Wishes.

The document is also used to explain reasons for guardianship and exclusions. This will allow you to explain why you have selected certain Guardians, or perhaps why you have excluded someone, again providing you with peace of mind, as we cannot explain our choices and decisions after we are gone.

The document can provide guidance for your Key people within a Will.

Executors

A Memorandum of Wishes is a legal letter to your Executor(s) expressing your precise wishes in relation to certain goods and how they are distributed. (You cannot include money in a Memorandum of Wishes).



Guardianship

It is good practice to state what your plans and ambitions are for your children as well as mentioning the key values that are important in their upbringing. This could be a document the chosen Guardians refer to over the years as your children grow and mature. You can be as detailed or as brief as you like but it's your opportunity to have an influence over their future.

Trustees

The main job of the Trustee is to look after monies for the beneficiaries who are often minors within a Will. You may want to guide the Trustees in when you would like your children to have access to monies such as education, house deposits and first cars. You could also give them advice on the level of financial support they should give the Guardians.

It is also good practice to record any hymns or requests for your funeral service as these can give your loved ones guidance at a very difficult time.

You also have the right to change these instructions as often as you want; just destroy your old Memorandum of Wishes and complete a new one. A Memorandum of Wishes can be amended, modified and corrected at any time you wish. It is a good idea to type the document as this can easily be modified over time as your circumstances and wishes change. We advise that you keep a copy of a signed Memorandum of Wishes with the Will.