

SIGNING YOUR WILL CORRECTLY DURING COVID-19

In light of the current situation, the normal process for ensuring your Will is correctly signed & witnessed has become extremely difficult for many people in self-isolation. Unfortunately, unless the correct process is followed, your Will is not going to be valid on your death.

The correct process is that you must sign your Will in the presence of two independent witnesses (not potential beneficiaries of your Will or married to anyone who is), who must be present together at the same time, to witness you sign, then each sign in your presence to confirm they have witnessed you sign.

For obvious reasons under current conditions, it is not safe or advisable to invite anybody into your home, to stand too close to them, or to share a pen.

Erring on the side of caution (ie assume everybody else is contagious!) I would advise you to achieve a valid attestation (signing & witnessing) by conducting the process outside, as follows:

- Take a chair outside – if it's not sufficiently flat then put a large hard-backed book on it
- Have your two independent witnesses stand at least 2 meters away from you & each other, but close enough to both witness you sign
- All three of you should wear gloves & bring your own pen (preferable all black pens), and take it in turn to sign / witness the Will, in the (remote!) presence of each other, and complete the 'Remote Attestation Record' to be returned to me
- Then take the fully & correctly signed Will inside (still wearing your gloves), put it somewhere out of the way, and don't touch it for 48 hours (in case someone is actually contagious) to enable any residual 'virus' to die... (then take off your gloves!)

For some people this may seem a little far-fetched, but for anybody who is – or is necessarily in contact with someone who is – a 'vulnerable' person, this really is the best process I can think of for the current situation!

Stay safe & keep well!

Kind regards

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