



Writing a Will: The Facts

If you haven't yet written a Will, you're among the two thirds of UK residents who have not yet done so. Spring is often a time when we start to think about decluttering and getting organised for the year ahead – so it's a great time for putting your affairs in order by writing a Will.

Why write a Will?

Having a Will ensures everyone is aware of your wishes for what should happen to your money, possessions and property (collectively known as your 'estate') after you die.

Do I need a solicitor when I make my Will?

It's easy for mistakes to be made when drawing up a Will and these can affect the Will's validity after your death. Therefore, it's generally advisable to use a solicitor, or at the very least have a solicitor check your Will.

What do I need to prepare before I meet with a solicitor?

To save time (and therefore reduce costs) when meeting with your solicitor, give some thought to the major points you

want included in your Will, such as what's included in your estate, who should benefit from your Will and what will happen to any children under 18.

Where should I keep my Will and who should I tell?

There are a number of places you can keep your Will once you've made it, such as at home, with a solicitor or accountant, or at a bank. But it's important to let someone know where your Will is kept!

My circumstances have changed. How do I update my Will?

Once you have made your Will, it is important to keep it up to date. It is particularly advisable for you to update your Will if you get married or remarried, separated or divorced, or if you have or adopt children.



54% OF PEOPLE IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND DO NOT HAVE A WILL

This means the law will decide who gets what of their 'estate', regardless of what their relationship was like with loved ones when they were alive or whatever their good intentions may have been.

While it can be a difficult subject to address or even think about, leaving it up to relatives to sort matters out after your death can cause irrevocable damage to family relationships.



For a fuller version of this article see the OMM blog at: www.ommlaw.co.uk/blog

SENIOR PARTNER DAVID TURNER CELEBRATES 25 YEARS AT THE PRACTICE

David Turner, who in March celebrated 25 years with Osborne Morris & Morgan is ranked in the Legal 500 guide as one of the top medical negligence experts in the UK.

After originally joining the firm in 1987, David completed his articles and moved away, but was delighted to return and join the firm's criminal defence department only a year later.

In 1993, David joined Tom Osborne (then a senior partner), Annie Lawrence and Emma MacFarlane in the growing medical negligence department and has specialised in this area of law ever since.

Tom, who now works as HM Coroner for Milton Keynes, was considered by David as a mentor, having established a thriving and highly reputable department.

Emma and Annie remain part of the medical negligence team, with David having taken on the roles of department head and Senior Partner.

Prior to OMM David studied architecture at university and learnt it wasn't for him. He went onto Keele University where he earned a degree in Law & History. He enjoyed the legal aspects of the course and so decided to take the Legal Practice (Solicitor's) Course at Chester College. OMM then took him on as a trainee where his career began.

Once at OMM, David spent two years training with various departments at the firm and another two years, working in the criminal department.

Over the years OMM have embraced change in the services they offer, to focus on their strengths and to develop a niche practice which is recognised nationally for the expertise of its highly-skilled, adaptable and committed team.

David says:

"OMM is a wonderful place to work, and we're a happy team of people. I believe this is key to our success and the number of longstanding employees we have here reflects this.

"Our family department is now fully established, and we won "Overall Business of the Year" at the 2013 FSB Awards. So far 2016 has been a brilliant year and I feel very privileged to be a part of OMM and very positive about the future."

Willen Quiz

OMM attended a charity quiz night in support of Willen Hospice on 17th March at the Ridgeway Centre in Wolverton.

Six members of staff took part in the quiz and had a fun and enjoyable evening whilst raising money for this wonderful charity. Our team did an excellent job and came 19th out of 54 teams.



The family team at OMM are running free walk in Legal advice clinics on the last Thursday of every month at our offices in West Street, Leighton Buzzard.

Our solicitors can advise on all aspects of family law, including:

- DIVORCE • SEPARATION
 - FINANCIAL SETTLEMENTS
 - CONTACT ISSUES CONCERNING CHILDREN
- and much more...

To find out more, contact a member of the team on:

☎ **01525 378177**

or send your enquiry via email:

✉ **info@ommlaw.co.uk**

No need to book an appointment but slots are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

KidsOut boxes



On 17th March, 5 members of staff volunteered to help local charity KidsOut.

The mission was to help sort and box several hundred toys into groups by age category and gender, ready to be sent out to refuges all over the country. Despite having five university degrees between us we found it quite a challenge as our knowledge of current toy trends and fads left a little to be desired! Thankfully a rudimentary knowledge of Frozen and the assistance of Sandra, Head of Children's Services at KidsOut, helped us make it through the afternoon.

OMM Gains Law Society's Conveyancing Quality Scheme (CQS) Accreditation

Buying or selling a home is often one of the largest transactions many of us will ever make.

So when you are seeking conveyancing advice from a solicitor, it is important to know that you are dealing with a professionally accredited conveyancing firm, and that they are in a position to help you fully understand the process, options, costs and timescales involved.

Excellent news then for OMM customers this month as we are now accredited with the Law Society's Conveyancing Quality Scheme (CQS).

The CQS is the recognised quality standard for the highly specialised area of residential conveyancing. Achieving accreditation is not by any means a straightforward process, and indeed involves submitting a detailed application form and subsequent assessment by the Law Society's technical panel.



The fact that OMM is accredited shows that we follow best practice, meet the highest standards of technical expertise and client service, and have all the skills and expertise to provide residential conveyancing services to the highest standard.

It also shows that we are able to satisfy the requirements of regulators, lenders and insurers.

For clients of Osborne Morris & Morgan who may be contemplating moving house, our newly achieved CQS accreditation gives you further peace of mind that you are making the right, informed choice in using our conveyancing service.

Anita and Lin retiring

On 23rd March 2016, we bade farewell to two members of staff who between them share 52 years of service at OMM.

Anita joined the firm in 1987 and Lin joined in 1993. In the time they have been at the company, the UK has had 5 Prime Ministers! Anita worked as a secretary in the Wills and Probate department, providing a stable source of knowledge and support over 29 years. Lin, also known as the 'Post Mistress', supported everyone at the firm for 23 years in a whole host of ways, including managing all the outgoing post; a task not to be underestimated in a firm our size! We wish them both all the best and thank them for their loyal service over the years.



 **Osborne Morris & Morgan**

Enjoy your retirement!

Attention all Facebook users!

**WIN
MK DONS
TICKETS!**

Look out for our Father's Day competition on our Facebook page, for the chance to win tickets to see MK Dons!

Father's Day Competition

**KidsOut
football trip**



On 23rd February 2016 a group of 20 children watched the MK Dons v Huddersfield fixture at the MK Stadium.

The tickets were kindly donated to us by The Friends of the MK Dons Trust and we, in turn, chose to give disadvantaged children the opportunity to go to the game.

**OXJAM
MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Oxjam

OMM were proud sponsors of this year's Oxjam event, a music festival organised by Oxfam.

Local pubs and venues were taken over by charity gigs during March, and we understand that around £6,000 was raised in total.



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If you're planning to pass anything that you value on to your loved ones, speak to **Osborne Morris & Morgan**

Helping you make the right choices

To find out more, call us on:

 **01525 378177**

or send your enquiry via email:



 **info@ommlaw.co.uk**

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