

LIVING WILLS

Living Wills are not really Wills at all. Wills deal with the property you own after you have died. Living Wills express your wishes about medical treatment you may have to receive while you are alive.

The law relating to Living Wills is constantly changing since more and more people have strong views about the types of medical treatment available. Some people would like medical practitioners to do everything in their power to treat them and keep them alive. Others would like to "die with dignity" or would not like to receive certain types of treatment for ethical reasons.

What is certain about this area of law is that you can express your opinion while you are able to, in a written document, which can be used at a time when you may be incapable of making the necessary decisions.

It is also possible in some circumstances to appoint a person to be your voice at the relevant time but this is not yet firmly established.

To be most effective a Living Will must show that you have a clear and complete understanding of the type of medical conditions you might have to face and the effect of the range of treatments available. To do this it is best for a Living Will to be prepared in consultation with your GP and a solicitor so that both the medical and legal aspects can be covered.

The Living Will should be in writing, signed by yourself in the presence of a witness and should be reviewed regularly since the more up to date it is, the more effective it will be.

At Parkinson Wright we have prepared a number of Living Wills and we constantly keep abreast of material published by legal and medical journals and certain charitable organisations.

If you would like to know more or arrange an appointment please contact Jean Newton on 01905 726789, or email her at:
jn@parkinsonwright.co.uk

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