GOODWILLS
LEGAL SERVICES LTD

Future Proof Membership

Our services explained

Welcome

Dear Future Proof member,

May we take this opportunity to thank you for your recent purchase from Goodwills Legal Services Ltd.

We are honoured that you have entrusted the writing of your Will to us. You can now be safe in the knowledge that, when the time comes, you have put the very best plans in place to safeguard your loved ones and protect your assets.

The services that you have put in place today have been designed to give you total peace of mind – ensuring that your wishes will be carried out and your assets distributed in the way you want them to be.

Who are we?

Established in 2004, Goodwills look after thousands of families every year. Our Head Office is in Bedford, Bedfordshire with a team of consultants operating across the country. All of our Wills are professionally written by a team of legal experts with many years experience in the industry. Our company ethos is very simple; to provide a personal, professional, affordable and convenient service for each and every one of our customers and everything we do is with this in mind.

Our Guarantee

Your purchase with Goodwills Legal Services Ltd and continuity of service is guaranteed by our membership to the Professional Association of Legal Services – PALS (see www.thepals.org).

PALS protects you in the unlikely event that we cease trading and are unable to deliver the services you have purchased today. A fellow member organisation will contact you and ensure services are fulfilled as detailed in our contract at no extra cost to you or your family.

Goodwills Legal Services Ltd

Estate Administration, what's involved?

Probate is complex and time consuming

The probate process is complex and many people may find it an overwhelming responsibility, especially at a distressing time. It can also be incredibly time consuming with the average estate taking around 80 hours of work and between 6 to 9 months to complete*. However, should you encounter any complications it is not uncommon to take over a year to finalise the administration.

The role of the Executor

Executors are the people responsible for carrying out probate. It is a legally binding role which subjects the individual(s) to a lifetime liability (both legally and financially) for all actions undertaken on behalf of the deceased's estate.

It's a daunting task, during which Executors will undertake a number of legal duties including, but not limited to;

- obtaining a grant of probate
- contacting HMRC, financial institutions and utility companies
- obtaining a clear and accurate value of the deceased's estate
- ensuring all creditors are contacted and paid
- setting up and running trust funds (as required)
- dealing with the the sale or transfer of UK and overseas property
- ensuring any Inheritance Tax issues are settled
- distributing the residual estate to the beneficiaries

Should there be any errors made the Executors can be held personally liable.

*Source Law on the Web. https://www.lawontheweb.co.uk/personal/probate

Following the death of a loved one many will simply instruct a local legal firm without much thought to the cost. However, specialist probate services are notoriously expensive. Banks and Solicitors often remain ambiguous in respect of their fees. Generally, Solicitors will charge a percentage of the estate value PLUS their hourly rate while Bank fees average around 4% of the estate value, sometimes more.

These fees can equate to thousands of pounds. Money that should be going to your beneficiaries.

Example

Estate Value	Fees at 2%	Fees at 3%	Fees at 4%
£400k	£8,000	£12,000	£16,000
£600K	£12,000	£18,000	£24,000
£800K	£16,000	£24,000	£32,000
£1M	£20,000	£30,000	£40,000
£1.2M	£24,000	£26,000	£48,000
£1.5M	£30,000	£45,000	£60,000

All fees are plus VAT and disbursements.

Our Future Proof Service

Single Will

FREE help and advice for you on any estate that you have been appointed Executor for, this could be your parents, siblings etc...

AND/OR

The full administration of your estate, or any other that you have been appointed Executor for, by our chosen Lexcel accredited Solicitors for just 1% (see contract for details).

This means that, when our Solicitors act, 99% of your net estate value will pass to your beneficiaries.

Joint/Mirror Wills

FREE help and advice for surviving spouse/partner to administer the estate on first passing.

FREE help and advice to administer any estate that you are appointed Executor for, this could be your parents, siblings etc...

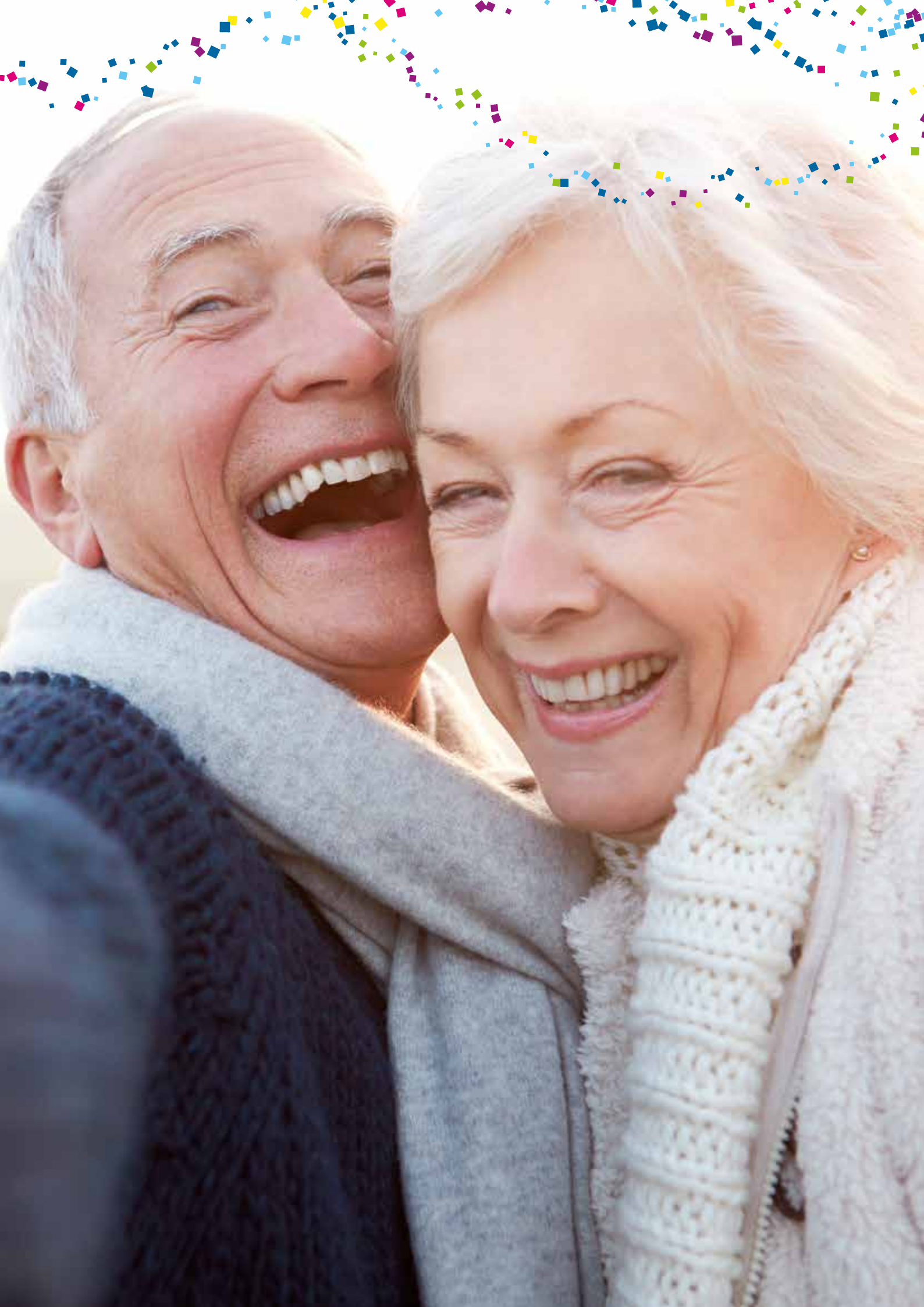
AND/OR

The full administration of your estate, or any other that you have been appointed Executor for, by our chosen Lexcel accredited Solicitors for just 1% (see contract for details).

This means that, when our chosen Solicitors act, 99% of your net estate value will pass to your beneficiaries.

Benefits

- Remove unnecessary stress from your Executors
- Exceptional value for money, maximum 1% (capped) fixed fee
- 99% of your net estate will be distributed to your beneficiaries
- Professional, smooth, prompt and friendly resolution of your estate guaranteed
- Mitigate the risk of any costly mistakes
- You may use this service for any Estate you are named Executor for
- The preparation of up to four LPA's' (unregistered)



Storage and Updates

Your package includes unlimited updates and the safe storage of your Will.

Why store your Will with Goodwills Legal Services Ltd?

The Probate Registry will only accept your original Will (not a copy) in good condition. So, it's advisable to keep it somewhere safe. Should your loved ones not be able to locate your Will or it is damaged or destroyed, you will be considered as having died intestate – without a Will. Your estate will then be distributed in accordance with the current laws of intestacy.

Many banks are withdrawing their Will storage service. Updating a Will stored in a bank may incur a retrieval fee and a fee to return it to storage once the changes have been made. Similarly, storing a Will with a Solicitor may incur an annual fee.

The storage of your Will in our climate controlled, fire proof facility is INCLUDED in your package. Your Executors will be issued with a leaflet containing all the information they need, including our contact details when the time comes.

We will not release a Will to the Executors without a written request, copy of the death certificate and proof of ID.

Why update your Will?

Life changes and so should your Will. That's why we include free, unlimited updates in our Future Proof Package*.

To ensure your Will delivers the outcome that you wish, it is important to review it when major life events occur – birth, marriage, retirement etc. If your Will is not kept up to date people that you would like to benefit from your estate may miss out. We recommend that you review your Will regularly and make any amendments accordingly.

How to update your Will

Simple address changes can be emailed to us at info@goodwills.net

Changes to the structure and outcome of your Will – for example changes to beneficiaries, including or excluding people – need to be made in writing, in a letter signed by you and sent to us at Head Office. We will contact you if we need any further clarification or to advise of any possible implications of the changes you have requested.

*Small admin fee will be applied to cover postage and packaging

Our Guarantee

We appreciate that you have put a lot of trust in our organisation. Your Will is a very personal matter and you want to be absolutely sure that the services you have put in place will be realised. We also understand there is a natural degree of uncertainty when purchasing any product or service particularly one that you probably won't be around to see put to use.

The independent legal services market is largely unregulated and there is a clear gap in the security of the public when purchasing Wills, trusts, probate support and other associated services.

The Professional Association of Legal Services (PALS) was set up to address this gap.

Professional Association of Legal Services

PALS has been providing security and peace of mind to the clients of its member organisations, by guaranteeing continuity of the services purchased from them, since its formation in 2002.

What this means for you is, in the unlikely event that we cease trading, the services you have put in place will be honoured by another member organisation, providing you with continuity of service and the reassurance and protection knowing you can purchase with certainty in an uncertain world.

If you have any questions about your Future Proof service, our other services or your Will, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We are available Monday to Friday 09:00 to 17:00 on 0345 222 0022.
Or, please send an email to info@goodwills.net

Lasting Powers of Attorney

Lasting Powers of Attorney(LPA's) appoint one or more trusted people who can act on your behalf and make decisions in your best interests should you not be able to do so at any point in the future.

There are two different types which give your Attorneys different powers known as:

1. Property and financial affairs

2. Health and Welfare

Property and financial affairs LPA's give your attorneys(your Attorneys are the people you have chosen to deal with your affairs whilst you have lost the capacity to do so)the power to deal with property such as your home,bank accounts and investments etc.

Health and Welfare LPA's allow your Attorneys to make life sustaining treatment decisions on your behalf or you may specify that you do not want them to be able to make such decisions.

Future Proof Membership Entitles You To;

The preparation of up to four LPA's (unregistered)*

*Registration fees are made payable to the Office of the public guardian

GOODWILLS
LEGAL SERVICES LTD

Our services

Wills
Trusts
Lasting Power of Attorney
Funeral Plans
Probate support
Full estate administration
Financial services (via independent broker)
Secure document storage

Contact us

Goodwills legal services Ltd
Third floor Premier House
Lurke Street
Bedford
Bedfordshire
MK40 3HU

Office opening hours
Monday to Friday 09:00 – 17:30
Call: **0345 222 0022**
Email: **info@goodwills.net**
Visit: **www.goodwills.net**