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Y O U R W I L L

WillSafe
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Letter of Wishes

Say the personal things your Will can't

*A guided template for the side-by-side document that lets you speak to your
family in your own voice.*

For England & Wales

A self-help template kit, not legal advice

The complete DIY estate plan, done properly.

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Welcome

Your Will tells the law what you want done. A Letter of Wishes tells your family why.

It's the document where you say the things the Will doesn't have room for, why one child gets the watch, why you'd like the dog to go to your sister, the song you want played at the funeral, the line of thanks to your best friend. It is not legally binding, but it carries enormous weight. Executors and family read it carefully.

NOT PART OF YOUR WILL

A Letter of Wishes is a separate document. Keep it WITH your Will but not stapled to it. If it's stapled, courts may treat it as part of the Will, which means anything in it becomes binding (and possibly invalidates parts of the Will).

What's inside

PART 1

How a Letter of Wishes works

PART 2

The 14 prompts, answer the ones that matter

PART 3

Two complete sample letters

PART 4

Your Letter of Wishes, final template

PART 5

Bonus extras: topic checklist, storage advice, annual update prompts

Part 1, How a Letter of Wishes works

What it is for

- Explaining your reasoning behind decisions in your Will (e.g. unequal shares).
- Listing specific small items and who you'd like them to go to.
- Funeral preferences (or pointing executors to a separate Funeral Wishes document).
- Personal messages to people you love.
- Practical pointers, where things are, who to call, what to do with the dog.

What it is NOT for

- Anything that contradicts your Will. The Will wins.
- Setting up trusts or making conditional gifts (use a solicitor for trusts).
- Disinheriting someone. If you want to disinherit, do it in the Will and explain why in the Letter.
- Saying anything you wouldn't be comfortable being read aloud at a family gathering.

UPDATE IT WHENEVER YOU LIKE

A Will requires signing, witnessing, and storage. A Letter of Wishes does not. You can rewrite it on a Sunday afternoon as often as you like. Date the new version and tear up the old one.