

C O D I C I L T E M P L A T E S · E N G L A N D & W A L E S

WillSafe
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Codicil Template Kit

Make small changes to your Will without rewriting the whole thing

*Three plain-English codicil templates for the most common Will updates, plus
when NOT to use one.*

For England & Wales

A self-help template kit, not legal advice

The complete DIY estate plan, done properly.

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Welcome

A codicil is a short legal document that amends an existing Will. Sign it correctly and it becomes part of the Will.

Codicils were the standard way to update a Will before word processors. Today they're useful for small, specific tweaks, but for anything bigger than that, simply writing a new Will is faster, cleaner, and less error-prone.

USE A CODICIL FOR SMALL CHANGES ONLY

Solicitors estimate that 70% of codicils they review should have been new Wills instead. Codicils get lost, get separated from the Will, or contradict each other. As a rule: one change, simple, no knock-on effects, codicil. Anything else, new Will.

What's inside

PART 1

When to use a codicil (and when NOT to)

PART 2

How a codicil is signed and witnessed

PART 3

Three codicil templates

PART 4

Bonus extras: storage, validity check, revocation

Part 1, Codicil or new Will?

Good candidates for a codicil

- Changing a single specific gift (e.g. "the watch now goes to Tom, not James").
- Changing one executor or guardian (e.g. your sister no longer wants to act).
- Adding a small charitable gift (e.g. "£500 to Macmillan Cancer Support").
- Updating a beneficiary's address.

Use a new Will instead if...

- You've already made one or more codicils. A second or third codicil increases the risk of contradiction.
- The change affects your main beneficiaries or residue.
- You've got married, divorced, had a child, or had a major change in circumstances.
- You're changing more than one substantive thing.
- You can't find the original Will (a codicil to a missing Will is worthless).

MARRIAGE RULE (AGAIN)

Marriage or civil partnership automatically revokes most Wills, and the codicil with them. Don't try to "fix" this with a codicil; make a new Will.