

Legacy Factsheet 1 - Legal terms and words explained

Legal Term	Explanation
Administrator	A person appointed to arrange your affairs where you leave no will, do not name an executor or if your executor has subsequently died
Beneficiary	An individual or organisation that will receive a gift in your will
Bequest	A gift left to a person or organisation in your will
Codicil	An alteration or addition to your existing will. This needs to be written as a separate document and signed by you in the joint presence of two other witnesses, who also sign it
Chattels and moveables	Personal possessions, including car and furniture
Estate	All possessions, property and money. Everything you leave behind
Executor	Person named in your will to ensure its instructions are carried out
Intestate	Dying without leaving a will
Legacy	A gift left to a person or organisation in your will
Life interest	A two stage form of legacy in which the first beneficiary is given, for example, access to your house during their lifetime. After their death the house passes on to a second beneficiary named in your will. A charity, is often the second beneficiary
Pecuniary Legacy	The gift of a fixed sum of money
Probate	Legal procedure to decide whether you left a valid will and give executors the authority to carry out the terms of the will
Residuary Legacy	A gift of what is left over from your estate when all other obligations have been met. This can be left wholly to one beneficiary or divided between beneficiaries. This is a popular way to leave a gift to charity.
Specific Legacy	A gift of a particular named item in your will, for example, a piece of furniture
Testator	The person who is making the will

SIA recommends that you use a qualified solicitor to make or amend a will. With their help making/ amending a will should be straightforward and easy.

SIA do not recommend or endorse specific solicitors, but we do identify those who offer free will writing services to SIA members. This information will be found on an accompanying factsheet.