Making Decisions - Your Will

NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

cki community knowledge initiative

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES
Providing Services to People with I

INFORMATION

You should be given information in a way that you can understand it.

You may need more information for difficult decisions that you have to make about your Will.

Information can be explained to you by

- Using words
- Using pictures
- Using signs like Lámh or Irish Sign Language
- Using your communication device
- Using any of these together

The Law

Your solicitor can help you to make a Will.

If you want to make a Will, there are some things that you must be able to do and you should have support to do these things.

- You must be able to understand that you are making a Will and what it means
- You must understand what things you own
- You must be able to think of all the people who might expect to be given something in your Will

You might own a lot of things, like an IPod, DVDs, jewellery, or a television.

You might own a house or have money in a bank account.

In your Will you write down what you want to happen to the things you own after you die.

Who you choose to leave things to:

Most people include their children, their husband or wife, or family member in their Will.

You may also choose some of your friends or relations.

You can choose who gets your things.

You can leave your things to one person or many people.

The Executor

You choose a person to make sure all the things you write in your Will happen the way you want.

You should pick someone you trust- like a family member, or support worker, or a good friend.

This person is called the Executor.

The Executor has a job. The Executor must carry out your wishes set out in the Will. The Executor makes sure that the people you choose get the things you want them to have.

Your solicitor will keep your Will and you can have a copy of your Will.

If you don't make a Will

If you don't make a Will everything you own will go to your closest relative only. This person is called your "next of kin".

What you would like

You should have enough support to make your own decision about your Will.

Sometimes it may be difficult for you to make decisions about your Will.

Then, someone you trust can help you to make that decision. They can support you to:

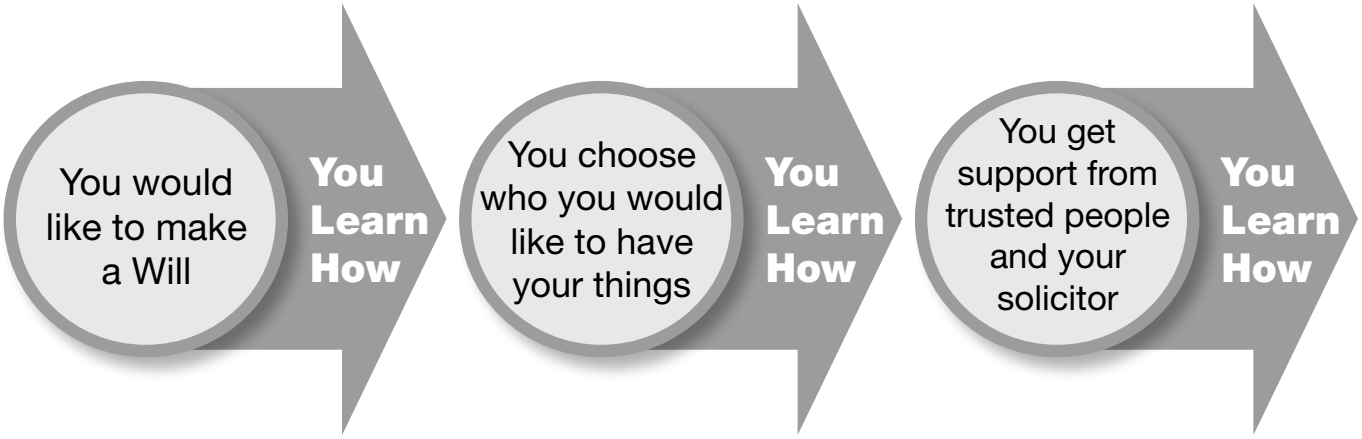
- Understand the information about your decision
- Remember the information that you need to make your decision
- Understand the different choices you have
- Know what happens after you have made your decision
- Let people know what your decision is

When someone you trust supports you to make a decision about your Will, they have to remember that it is your views that are very important.

Someone you trust can include a friend, an advocate, a family member and any other person who supports and knows you well.

Sometimes a court may decide that you are unable to make a decision about your Will. In this case, someone may be asked to make a decision for you. This decision must be based on your wishes, what is happening now and what might happen so that things are better for you.

Stepping Stones to making a decision about your Will:



THIS IS PATRICIA ...

Patricia has decided to make a Will.

She knows it is a very important thing to do.

Patricia talks to some friends about making a Will.

She talks to her sister as well.

They agree it is a good idea to make a Will.

Patricia makes a list of all the important things she owns.

Patricia and her support worker Maria go to see a solicitor.

The solicitor helps Patricia write her Will.

Patricia has decided to make her sister her Executor.

This means her sister will make sure that what Patricia writes in her Will is carried out.

Patricia has decided to leave some money to each of her brothers and sisters.

She has decided to leave some money to her god-child, Darren.

Patricia has decided to give her television and DVD collection to her friend Ann.

She has decided to give her watch to her friend Sinead.

Patricia is happy with what's in her Will.

She is happy she thought about what to do with her things.

She is happy she talked about her Will with some friends and with Maria.

Patricia is happy her Will is written and that her solicitor keeps it safely.

Patricia's Will is a legal document. Patricia was able to make her Will because she understood the information about making a Will. She understood she had to make choices about who would get her things. She had some support from talking to her trusted friends and her sister. Her solicitor helped and advised her. Patricia's wishes are in the Will.

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