



**Simpler Law.**



**Private Client Care.**

**Unparalleled benefits for your  
Estate Plan during your lifetime and beyond**

## Simpler Law. Who Are We?

**Simpler Law** is part of a group of companies that specialise in end of life planning and Private Client Services. Through acquisition and growth, it now has over 200,000 satisfied clients and has a 5-star Trustpilot rating.

**Simpler Law** is a nationwide company with clients throughout England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. Whilst the head office is based in Lincoln, it has offices in Leicester, Cardiff, Birmingham, Manchester, and the Northeast.

Our approach is mainly through a specialist phone-based team, but we also have a nationwide network of Advisors, to enable us to visit you in virtually every location across the UK, if required.



## Simpler Law. Contact Details

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Simpler Law Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of HAIG Legal Group Limited (HAIG)) may, where necessary, sub-contract to its sister company, Fidelis Legal Services Limited, also a wholly owned subsidiary of HAIG, for other legal or estate planning work to be carried out in order to fulfil your requirements and meet your estate planning needs.



## Private Client Care. What's included?

Our **Private Client Care** plan has unique benefits that we believe are unparalleled in the United Kingdom.

This plan not only cares for your documents during your lifetime in a safe, secure, and fully insured facility, but also allows you the freedom to update your documents at any time and provides you with access to an experienced Estate Planning Practitioner whenever you wish.

This plan, however, goes even further by not only keeping your documents updated and secure during your lifetime, but it will also look after your loved ones by providing Estate Administration (Probate) when you pass on at a

fraction of the standard cost; meaning your family don't have to take on the task of being Executors, or have to shop around for Probate Practitioners and negotiate prices. Those close to you, therefore, don't have to worry about, or deal with, complicated court and legal processes at a very difficult time.

Please read on for full details of the Simpler Law **Private Client Care** plan.



\* Subject to a minimum fee of £995.00 + VAT





## Private Client Care. During My Lifetime

I've done it! For many people, taking out a Will and planning for what happens after they die is a really positive thing. Isn't it good just to think that you have done it, another box ticked? Your family will be provided for, according to your wishes. However, what happens next?

### Keeping my Will up to date

The thought of dying is unthinkable to many, but it will happen to all of us and we all hope that it will be many years in the future. In the meantime, we live our lives to the full but, as we cannot predict either our future or when we will die, how do we know that our plans and intentions for today will be the same tomorrow?

The sad fact is that, if your Will is out of date when you die, it could mean that family, friends, and charities can miss

out, whilst someone you no longer wish to could still inherit. In some situations, your Will may no longer be valid, or could fail, meaning that your estate will then be distributed in accordance with the Rules of Intestacy essentially ignoring any wishes you had made. Clearly this is undesirable!

It is therefore recommended that you review your documents every three years. In actual fact, our clients that choose to update their Wills, do so on average every two years and three months.

Reviewing your Will, however, is not always that easy. It is not an editable document and only an original Will that has been signed, dated, and witnessed correctly is legally valid. If it is defaced in anyway or altered, written on or changed then this could invalidate your document.

Should a Will become invalid through such changes, then the only way to replace it and update it, is to go through a new consultation and produce an entirely new document. If you have paid hundreds of pounds for

your previous document because your Will contains Trusts for example, you would potentially end up paying these costs again.

This is clearly not a cost-effective way to keep your legal documents up to date.

### Is there a better way?

Yes. Our **Private Client Care Plan** specifically caters for this. Simply put, by taking advantage of the **Private Client Care** you can update your documents at any time with no further charge.

Your **Private Client Care** plan will allow you to speak to one of our qualified consultants to review your situation and your documents. You can make any changes necessary and update your estate planning in line with your new requirements.

Your new documents will then be professionally drafted and bound; and then sent to you along with any relevant copy documents.

Inheritance Tax advice is also included, as and when necessary, to ensure the most effective use of any allowances your estate may be entitled to. We will also check your documents when they are returned to us and, if any have been signed or witnessed incorrectly, then replacement documents will be produced and sent to you, again with no further charge.



## Private Client Care. During My Lifetime

Congratulations. So, now your Will is up to date, but where are you going to keep it?

### Looking after my Will

Over the years, we have visited and spoken to many thousands of clients and asked them that very question.

Some are highly organised and put it in a safe or other secure place; and some are not quite so organised. We've heard of storage options ranging from being put in a cupboard to ending up in a shoe box in the loft.

Regardless of where you keep your Will, how is your family going to know where it is when you pass on or, that it even exists?

Sadly, many Wills are lost and all the hard work and effort that was put in to document your wishes goes to waste, as the estate will now be distributed according to the laws of intestacy in the absence of a valid Will.

Worse still, your Will could be destroyed. This may be by accident, as family members may not recognise the document or its importance; or maybe, just maybe, they do recognise it but don't like the content and so destroy it! It is an incredibly sad fact, but it does happen.

### Is there any way to protect against this?

Yes. Our **Private Client Care** looks after all of this for you. We have built a secure storage unit specifically designed for this purpose. This unit is highly secure, alarmed, temperature controlled and most importantly, fully insured so your document is kept safe and sound until it is needed.

In the unlikely event that your document suffers a catastrophic loss whilst in our care, our insurance will ensure a copy is produced from our offsite secure servers. Where a client is unable to sign a replacement Will we can provide affidavit evidence to allow a registrar to authorise a copy to be used as the original Will. Planning for the worst and hoping for the best; all of this covered by our comprehensive insurance.

You can also use our secure storage facility for the safekeeping of other documents such as family photos, property deeds, insurance policies or other important paperwork, at no additional cost.

We will also produce a copy of your Will for you to keep at home; plus, we will provide your family and loved ones with details of how to contact us once you have passed on.





## Private Client Care. Once You've Gone

Once you have passed on, your estate will usually have to go through the Estate Administration process, including the Court Probate process, before it can be passed on to your family.

Sadly, over recent years, the word 'Probate' has become a 'dirty' word with terrible stories of banks and law firms charging exorbitant fees to administer estates, leading many people to appoint family members or friends without fully realising what is involved and the responsibilities a lay executor must take on.

**Firstly, let us consider some of the main steps involved in estate administration.**

- 1 Locate the Will, register the death and obtain copies of the death certificate.
- 2 Undertake funeral arrangements.
- 3 Secure deceased's property (where applicable).
- 4 Produce a schedule of assets and liabilities. Obtain valuations and register the death with those holding assets.
- 5 Establish the identity of beneficiaries under the terms of the Will.
- 6 Prepare the appropriate Inheritance Tax (IHT) form and submit to HMRC. Payment for any IHT due will need to be arranged.
- 7 Submit all necessary documentation to the Probate Registry to obtain the grant.
- 8 Issue statutory notices in the London Gazette and a local newspaper.
- 9 Collect together and realise the deceased's assets.
- 10 Pay any outstanding debts according to the terms of the Will or statutory order.

- 11 Pay any cash gifts and transfer any specific assets to the appropriate beneficiaries.
- 12 Establish what makes up the residuary estate and discharge any final tax liabilities.
- 13 Prepare Estate Accounts to be approved by the residuary beneficiaries and executors.
- 14 Distribute the residue of the estate according to the terms of the Will.

**This is a simplistic overview. For a more comprehensive and detailed explanation see our *Probate Overview* brochure.**

### Estate Administration

The time and obligations involved in the administration of an estate can be onerous and very complicated for an untrained individual. There is a significant level of responsibility and the penalties for failing to carry out Executor duties correctly can be severe.

A lay Executor has a personal liability to ensure the estate is correctly administered, debts are repaid, and beneficiaries inherit in accordance with the Will.

Creditors can appear many months after death, demanding payment from an Executor's own funds if they haven't followed the correct process.

The administration can also be very lengthy, typically taking between twelve and eighteen months to complete; and sometimes even longer.

The simple fact is, that while most people may have the best of intentions when they accept the role of being an Executor, when they actually take on the task, most seek professional help and end up delegating some, if not all, of the responsibility.

Sadly, however, some people do not have the best intentions and there have been a number of cases where Executors have withheld money or, in some cases, kept and spent the money themselves.

We have also seen some cases where Executors have been put under pressure by beneficiaries to pay more money, not in accordance with the Will, causing bad feelings and problems.

Whilst every situation is different and it is always entirely your decision as to who you appoint as Executor, there is no doubt that the use of a professional is always a recommended course of action as it ensures your instructions will always be carried out professionally, giving you peace of mind.

With **Private Client Care**, you can rest assured that not only will we deal with your estate, but at a minimal cost providing peace of mind for you and your family at a very difficult time.



## Private Client Care. Once You've Gone

With our plan, the whole process of Estate Administration is only charged at a fraction of the cost, in fact a 70% reduction. This means that you no longer have to worry about selecting an executor as it is all taken care of. Those close to you do not need to worry or stress over your estate at an already emotionally trying and difficult time.

Our Estate Administration, or Probate, is charged as a percentage on the total value of your estate. We believe this is a fairer method, as charging on an hourly basis can be far more expensive, especially when dealing with third-parties i.e. banks, building societies, life assurance companies, investment providers, etc. This means that the price you pay is fixed but, in addition to that, is reduced by 70%. Our standard fee is 2.5% of the gross estate, plus VAT.

This means that an estate of £200,000 would usually be charged at £5,000 +VAT. However, every member of this plan will receive a 70% discount, meaning that we will only charge 0.75%. The fee, in this example, would therefore be £1500 +VAT. Please note that this is based on the value of the estate at the time of death and not at the point the PCC commences.

Please note that there is a minimum charge of £995 +VAT, which would only affect estates under £132,750.

Another benefit is that there is no upfront cost (unless an estate is insolvent or consists of a property only, which the beneficiary wishes to keep and not be sold) which means that executors do not need to fund these costs themselves as we will carry out the work and deduct all costs prior to the estate being distributed.

Please note that additional charges and disbursements are not included such as court fees and conveyancing costs but many of these occur regardless of who administers an estate (be that a lay executor or a professional one), examples of these can be found on our website. These costs are payable from the estate, as administration expenses.

The process is very simple. Once we have been notified of your death, we will work to administer your estate as quickly as possible and distribute it exactly how you have documented it in your estate plan. We will also work with your beneficiaries, so they are well informed and are included in the process as much as possible.

We have dealt with many estates over the years and have many thousands of satisfied customers. We are immensely proud of the 5-star Trust Pilot rating they have given us.

Your estate plans, both in your lifetime and following your death, could not be in better hands.



## Private Client Care. Summary of Benefits

### Aftercare.

- ▶ Unlimited consultations with Estate Planning Experts
- ▶ Estate Planning tax advice
- ▶ Production of new documents and all postage costs
- ▶ Checking all documents once signed (validation)
- ▶ Copy documents, where appropriate
- ▶ Replacement documents if signatures are missing, incorrect or names misspelt.
- ▶ Lifetime changes including beneficiaries removed or added, funeral wishes amended, etc.

### Storage.

- ▶ Documents held at a secure location
- ▶ Temperature controlled environment
- ▶ Fully insured. Protects against loss, damage, theft
- ▶ Storage for personal, valuable, items such as property deeds and photos
- ▶ Copy documents provided

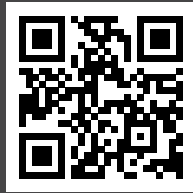
### Significantly Reduced Estate Administration (Probate).

- ▶ 70% reduction in probate fees, fixed at 0.75% +VAT of estate gross value\*

\* Subject to a minimum fee of £995.00 + VAT, plus additional charges and disbursements

# Simpler Law. Our Services

WILLWRITING & ESTATE PLANNING  
LASTING POWERS OF ATTORNEY  
TRUST & TAX SPECIALISTS  
PROFESSIONAL TRUSTEE SERVICES  
TRUSTEE ADVISORY & AGENT SERVICES  
PROBATE & ESTATE ADMINISTRATION  
PROFESSIONAL EXECUTOR SERVICES  
SPECIALIST CONVEYANCING  
PRIVATE CLIENT CARE



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