



Have You Reviewed Your Will Recently?

Many people are aware that gifts to charity are generally free from Inheritance Tax (IHT), making charitable giving an effective way of supporting causes that matter while potentially reducing the tax burden on an estate.

However, recent changes to the tax rules serve as an important reminder that even well-structured Wills should be reviewed periodically to ensure they continue to achieve the intended outcome.



What Has Changed?

The Government has introduced new rules affecting certain charitable gifts for Inheritance Tax purposes.

Where a gift is left directly to a UK-registered charity, the generous IHT exemption remains unchanged. However, from 6 April 2026, the exemption may no longer apply where funds are left to a trust for charitable purposes unless the trust itself meets the legal definition of a registered charity.

In practical terms, this could affect Wills that leave money to trustees with instructions to choose which charities or charitable causes should ultimately benefit. Under the new rules, the anticipated tax relief may not be available unless the funds are distributed in a specific way and within certain timescales.

For some families, this could result in a higher Inheritance Tax liability than originally expected.

Why This Matters

Whilst this particular change will only affect a proportion of people, it highlights a wider issue.

Tax legislation, estate planning rules and family circumstances change regularly. A Will drafted several years ago may still be legally valid, but that does not necessarily mean it remains the most effective way to achieve your wishes.

Common reasons to review your Will include:

- Changes to tax legislation.
- Marriage, divorce or changes in family circumstances.
- The birth of children or grandchildren.
- Changes in the value of your assets.
- The creation of trusts or family companies.
- Updates to your charitable intentions.
- Changes to executors, trustees or beneficiaries.

When Did You Last Review Your Will?

Many people create a Will and then file it away for years without revisiting it. We generally recommend reviewing your Will every three to five years, or sooner if there has been a significant change in your circumstances or the law.

A review does not always mean changes are required. Often, it simply provides reassurance that your plans remain appropriate and that your loved ones are protected.

How We Can Help

If you haven't reviewed your Will recently, why wait until it's too late? Contact ML Trust & Estate Planning today to arrange a professional review. We'll ensure your wishes remain protected, your estate is structured as efficiently as possible, and your loved ones have the clarity and security they deserve.

Book your review today and make sure your Will is working as hard as it should for you and your family.

Contact Dean, Tracy or Trish on 01953 711123 or at info@mltrust.co.uk