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APW ESTATE PLANNING LIMITED
CLIENT GUIDE

Wills, trusts and LPAs explained

How the documents work together and when specialist advice may be needed

Clear information. Practical next steps.

This guide is general information for England and Wales. It is not personalised legal, tax or financial advice. Rules, forms and fees can change; check the linked official guidance before acting.

Wills, trust wills and LPAs at a glance

These documents do different jobs. A will deals with your estate after death. A trust written into a will can control how particular assets are held or used after death. A lasting power of attorney (LPA) gives chosen people authority to help with decisions during your lifetime.

Document	Main purpose
Standard will	Names executors, beneficiaries and guardians, and records how the estate should pass.
Trust will	Creates or uses a trust after death so trustees manage assets under stated terms for one or more beneficiaries.
LPA	Lets attorneys help with or make specified decisions during the donor's lifetime. An LPA ends when the donor dies.

When a trust will may be considered

- Providing for a spouse or partner while preserving capital for children or other beneficiaries.
- Holding an inheritance for a child, young adult or vulnerable beneficiary.
- Managing timing, control and trustee decision-making after death.
- Planning for blended families, second relationships or competing needs.
- Providing continuity where property or other assets should not pass outright immediately.

IMPORTANT	A trust will is not an automatic way to avoid tax or care charges. Suitability depends on ownership, family circumstances, the trust wording and the law at the relevant time. Deliberate deprivation of assets can be challenged by a local authority. Obtain personalised advice and do not rely on guaranteed-protection claims.

KEEP CLAIMS ACCURATE

Inheritance Tax and the family home

The standard Inheritance Tax threshold is normally £325,000. Where a qualifying home passes to children or grandchildren, the available threshold can increase to £500,000, subject to the residence nil-rate band conditions and the £2 million taper. Unused thresholds may be transferable between spouses or civil partners.

NO ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL RESULT

The tax outcome depends on estate value, ownership, exemptions, reliefs, gifts, trusts and who inherits. A will should be reviewed alongside current tax advice rather than sold on a guaranteed tax saving.

PLANNING FOR LIFETIME DECISIONS

Lasting powers of attorney

Type	What it can cover
Health and welfare	Care, daily routine, medical treatment and living arrangements. It can be used only when the donor cannot make the relevant decision.
Property and financial affairs	Banking, bills, benefits, pensions, investments and property. Once registered, it can be used with the donor's permission while they have capacity.

CURRENT REGISTRATION POSITION

The donor must be 18 or over and have mental capacity when making the LPA. Registration currently costs £92 per LPA and normally takes 8 to 10 weeks if there are no mistakes. Fee reduction or exemption may be available.

How the documents work together

1. **During life**
   LPAs provide authority for chosen attorneys; a will does not.
2. **At death**
   LPAs end. Executors take responsibility under the will and any grant of probate.
3. **After death**
   Trustees manage any will trust under its terms, separately from their personal assets.
4. **Review regularly**
   Revisit the documents after family, relationship, property, business or health changes.

Official sources — checked 20 August 2026: GOV.UK - Make a will · GOV.UK - Inheritance Tax overview · GOV.UK - Passing on a home · GOV.UK - Lasting power of attorney · Care and Support Statutory Guidance - deprivation of assets. Confirm current forms, fees, rules and provider terms before acting.