

planning for ^{your} ~~the~~ future

enjoy the fruits of your labour



secure New lease of life

You've worked hard to establish the life you want and provide for your family. After years of putting others first, now it's your time.



Anticipating retirement should be fun, but there's no room for complacency. Life has a habit of simply happening and you will continue to face major changes, planned or not. You need to remain vigilant about protecting your wealth and your family, regularly reviewing the plans you have in place to make sure they still meet your needs efficiently and effectively.

Property accounts for a large part of the wealth of many people, but before completing on any transaction think carefully about how you do it, the status of ownership and the consequences. Take particular care if the property is overseas – issues of private international law arise when you have assets in different jurisdictions.

You may be thinking about down-sizing, buying a holiday or investment property at home or abroad, or releasing equity from your family home to fund a comfortable retirement. Maybe you're contemplating extending your home to accommodate elderly relatives who need care?

Parents are increasingly helping their children to fund homes of their own, but what's the best way? An outright gift could work for wealthier parents whose estates face a significant inheritance tax charge, but if you're contemplating funding your own care in later years, some form of loan could be a better alternative and provide more security.

Tax planning involving property can be complex, and advice on the best way to suit your situation is vital.



Relationships – a source of great joy?

Whether you're embarking on a lifetime commitment or ending a relationship, the law offers protection.

Divorce amongst the over-50s has risen significantly in recent years. It's a daunting prospect, fuelled by fear of the unknown and of financial independence, but proceedings are geared towards agreement, mediation and negotiation.

Same sex civil partnerships bestow broadly similar rights to marriage, including the 50:50 starting point for the division of assets on dissolution. Co-habiting couples, however, are often surprised to find that even a lengthy relationship doesn't confer the same rights as marriage.

Of course lots of people embark on new relationships creating complex, extended families. If you find yourself in this situation, consider a co-habitation, pre-nuptial or pre-partnership agreement and trusts to protect your own finances and your family's inheritance, especially if you want children and grandchildren from an earlier relationship to benefit.



Most people prefer to avoid confrontation and here at asb we have qualified practitioners in collaborative law, an alternative to litigation that can be used to resolve all aspects of separation to find solutions that are fair and sensible for everyone concerned.

Falling out with family or friends can occur, sadly, for any number of reasons. Challenging – or being challenged – in respect of a Will, for example, is one particularly distressing situation that requires specialist skills and knowledge.

There are numerous ways to preserve your wealth and assets for the benefit of future generations but no 'one size fits all' solution.

Providing for the lifestyle you plan to enjoy will compete with the desire to avoid capital taxation for the next generation. The best estate planning solutions are bespoke, combining legal and financial plans that carefully dovetail together. Holding property as tenants in common, trusts and gift and loan schemes are just some of the tools available to minimise inheritance tax liability.

Owning property and other assets or even living overseas creates particular challenges. Inheritance laws differ greatly from country to country, and you may need to have more than one Will in place if you have assets in different jurisdictions.

When you're busy enjoying life it's easy to forget about the devastating effects that losing the capacity to take decisions or sign documents – whether through accident, illness or infirmity – can have, though you might experience the difficulties when caring for ageing relatives. Whatever your age and lifestyle, consider an appropriate power of attorney to allow your financial affairs to be looked after in accordance with your wishes if you do become incapacitated. A Lasting Power of Attorney also allows you to delegate healthcare as well as financial decisions.

A regularly updated Will is essential to ensure your wishes are fulfilled.

At some point we all have to face the death of a relative or close friend. As an executor, you may find yourself dealing with the strict legal obligations of probate – which can be intimidating and time consuming – at a time when you're least able to cope emotionally.

Think carefully about the executors you appoint in your own Will and whether they will be able to manage the responsibility or have the capacity to do so when necessary. Appointing a professional adviser to administer your estate quickly and sensitively might be preferable.

Of course if you are the beneficiary of a Will and receive a significant legacy, there could be serious implications for your own estate planning. You could be in a position to pass some of your wealth to your children or grandchildren, either directly or in trust for their future. All the more reason for keeping your Will up to date.



Protecting the life you've got and the future you want takes thought, planning and time.

Many of these issues are inextricably linked, which is why you need the expertise of a firm like asb.

Our experts in family law, residential property or tax, trusts and probate will take a holistic view of your situation and consider the consequences of any given course of action on other aspects of your life. We will work together and collaborate with other advisers as necessary to make sure the solutions we propose meet your requirements and support the future you want. Whether your interests are at home or abroad, we can help.

City law firms don't have a monopoly on expertise: exceptional technical skills and a down-to-earth approach coupled with sensitivity, tact and diplomacy are the mark of the asb private client team.

Talk to us.

You'll find people you can trust who appreciate the complexities of your life and have the breadth of experience to offer support – whatever life brings.



asb law is a leading law firm with offices in Sussex, Kent and Surrey. We provide a full range of services for individuals and for commercial organisations and have a reputation for being both approachable and accessible.

For good advice that makes sense, call asb law.

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