

Prepare for the future



Plan for your family to be looked after

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in levels of uncertainty that make it more important than ever for individuals to plan for the unexpected as part of their overall financial planning.

Being prepared

In the case of your death, would your family's financial needs be taken care of?

While your company-sponsored retirement fund goes a long way towards helping to look after your family, there are some important actions you should think about taking as part of your financial planning.



Do you have an updated will?

A will is a signed legal document in which you can give instructions about who you want your money, property and belongings to go to after your death. If you have minor children, your will should also give instructions for their care.

Every person of 16 years and older that has money, property and belongings and is mentally able to understand the results of his or her actions, should have a will.

Why it's important to have a will

If you pass away without a will, it could lead to serious tax and legal problems for your family during a time when they are already struggling with grief.

You have the right to name the people who should be given your property and belongings in your will. If you don't name anyone, then anything you owned will be divided according to law. This means that your property and belongings could end up not being owned by the person that you would've chosen.

Taxes can take a big chunk out of any money, property or belongings you leave behind if your financial planning is not done correctly. So it's important to get advice from a specialist or financial adviser when preparing your will.



Do you have an updated beneficiary nomination form for your retirement fund?

The beneficiary nomination form is an important document because it lets the trustees of your fund know who you'd like to receive your retirement savings if you pass away. It's the trustees' responsibility to divide and pay out your retirement savings, as well as any group life benefits to your dependants.

The trustees will consider the beneficiary nomination form, together with your will and any other information they receive during their investigation to find out who was financially dependent on you. They must make sure that the money is used to support the people who relied on you financially while you were alive.

You can get the beneficiary nomination form from your HR representative.





Get help

If you need help with any of these considerations, please contact your financial adviser. If you don't have an adviser you can contact Alexforbes and one of our qualified advisers will help you with your planning.



Contact us

Understanding your options or help making a decision based on your personal circumstances (advice)

My Money Matters Centre

Telephone: **0860 000 381**

Email: mymoneymatters@alexforbes.com

Creating a will

Fiduciary Services:

Telephone: **011 269 1889**

Email: affiduciaryservices@alexforbes.com

Have you nominated beneficiaries on your other policies outside of your employer's retirement fund?

If you write the name of a beneficiary on a life or endowment policy, then the benefits that are payable when you pass away will be paid directly to them. The payments are made quite quickly, which means they will have money available for financial support or to settle any debts while the legal process for your property and belongings is being completed.

If you don't name a beneficiary on your policies, then the money will be paid as if it belongs to you and will be combined with all the other money and property that belonged to you. This means that it could take a very long time before your dependants - or anyone else named in your will - would receive the money. This is because a number of legal processes would have to be followed before any payments could be made.

Have you considered a funeral policy?

Funeral policies give your family a quick payment of cash so that they have money to cover the costs of your funeral, if you pass away. Many funeral policies also offer cover for immediate, and sometimes, extended family members. This means that you'll receive the cash to help cover the costs of their funerals too.

Have you updated your beneficiaries on your company group accident cover?

If your company has group accident cover, it's important to make sure the correct people receive payments, in the case of your accidental death. Payments from the policy will be made to the people that you've named as beneficiaries.

Tip: Update your beneficiaries if you get divorced or remarried. If you still have your ex-spouse listed as a beneficiary on your policies then they will receive the pay out, not your new family. Speak to your financial adviser or the insurer directly to make sure that the details of your beneficiaries are up to date.

Review your documents and policies whenever your circumstances change to make sure that the people you want to be looked after are the people that will benefit from the plans you've put in place in the case of your death.

