

Alternative Places to Store

The Logic

Only the original Will can be accepted for Probate. If the original will is not available then it is assumed that the Testator (person who made the Will) has decided to revoke it by destruction. Wills Act 1837 section 20. Case Law *Eckersley v Platt (1886)*

If your house burns down and kills you, and burns your Will, then there is no Will

If you have made an un-equal distribution and the child finding your Will sees that they are going to receive less than they might achieve under the intestacy rules, they might destroy the original Will themselves. I have a case where this actually happened.

You can keep your Will yourself

- This is sometimes a valid choice.
- Do not mark the Will or clip anything to it
- Do not let the dog eat it
- Do not spill coffee on it
- Treat it with respect.
- If you discover that the Will has been damaged while the Testator is alive I can print you a new one and I will charge you to sign it originally.

You can keep your Will but pass it to your Executor

- This is sometimes a valid choice.
- Best done in a sealed envelope
- Rules about their dog and coffee remain the same

Put it in the Bank

- This is very rarely a valid choice.
- The Bank Box is often in your name but the contents will only be released to your Executor with a Grant of Probate. You need the Will to obtain a Grant.
- You can ensure the Bank know that they have your Will and allow access to your executor
- It is no cheaper than National Will Safe