



Rated by Experts

Leading the market in
clarity and transparency



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Overview

Our product ratings use a set or 'red line' criteria to calculate an underlying score for each product, which translates to a star rating. Products can achieve between one and five stars.

To achieve a five-star rating, products must meet all of our red line criteria. We focus on core product features, and don't give extra marks for unnecessary features or optional extras.

Our current red line criteria are contained in the following pages.

Online Will Writers

Red Line 1 - Is the document checked?

The document must be checked by someone before it is signed. Ideally this would be done by a solicitor but can also be done by a will writing expert or paralegal etc.

Red Line 2 – Do they make themselves executors?

To pass this red line, online will writers must not make themselves your executors. Some online will writers will make themselves an executor and in exchange, take a percentage of your estate. We believe this is unacceptable so anyone doing this will fail this red line.

Red Line 3 – Online chat

Online will writers must offer an online chat feature in order to help customers with any queries they have during their purchase journey.

Red Line 4 – Cost of having documents bound and delivered

To pass this red line, online will writers must not charge more than £10 for the binding and delivery of documents. The median charge in the sector for this is £10 so that is where we have set the red line.

Red Line 5 – Cost of making a change to the will

The cost of making an update to the will over the life of the will must not exceed the sector average.

Red Line 6 – Is the provider a member of a professional standards body?

The will writer must be a member of a professional standards body. Examples of such bodies include, The Society of Online Will Writers, the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) and the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP).

Red Line 7 – Fee for retrieval of will?

The will writer must not charge a fee for retrieving a will must. The majority of brands in the sector do not charge for this so we have set the red line at £0.

Red Line 8 – Is it made clear in the journey that Will must be signed and witnessed by two independent people to be legally valid?

It must be made clear in the product journey that the will needs to be signed and witnessed by two independent people to be legally valid.

Red Line 9 – Is there a storage service provided? Or if there isn't one, Is it made clear that your will must be printed, stored and advised it should be kept in a safe place?

If a storage service is not provided the customer must be warned in the product journey that their will must be kept in a safe secure location where it cannot be damaged. I.e. a fireproof box.

Red Line 10 – Does the Will writer have Professional indemnity insurance?

The will writer must be covered by professional indemnity insurance.

Red Line Weightings

Red lines	Approx weighting
Do they make themselves executors?	40%
Online chat	5%
Cost to have online docs delivered and bound	5%
Cost of making changes to will	10%
Is the document checked?	10%
Member of professional standards body	10%
Storage	5%
Indemnity Insurance	5%
Is it made clear it must be witnessed by two independent people?	5%

Contact Fairer Finance

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