

The BBC's *Panorama* exposed the extent of malpractice in the preparation of Wills, obtaining Probate and the administration of estates by unregulated Will-writers.

The piece highlighted the dangers that are prevalent for the unwary who are sold by the appearance of a low cost option in preparing a will. You will no doubt have noticed the abundance of Will-writers that now have a presence in your local high street, shopping centres and even through door-to-door sales. The expose provided numerous examples of mis-selling, confusion and, at worst, fraudulent dealings that are all initiated at the point of selling you a cheap will. Complaints have ranged from the cheap initial fee becoming subject to annual storage fees, hidden costs that were not explained in relation to obtaining Probate, the fraudulent handling in the administration of estates, to an unprofessional service and unexplained delays resulting in financial loss .

The fact is that all Will-writers are unregulated, and in many cases have received training that amounts to little more than a short course in the preparation of wills. In addition, they are often sales driven and their paramount objective is to sell the product, not necessarily to provide advice that is suited to your personal circumstances. This can lead to additional and unnecessary fees, but could also result in additional tax bills distress as a result of poor advice and inadequate preparation of your will.

Solicitors have been advising and preparing wills and tax advice for centuries, and have been comprehensively trained to provide you with the best possible advice and service. Solicitors are also regulated, have indemnity insurance in the unlikely event of a mistake, and as a last resort the public can rely on the Solicitors Compensation Fund.

Thackray Williams have a large team of specialists who are able to provide comprehensive advice in relation to all your personal and financial affairs to include the preparation of wills, obtaining probate and the administration of estates. We offer a fixed fee in preparing Wills with no additional or hidden charges, which include the safe storage of you Will on your behalf. In administering an estate you can be assured that this will be handled scrupulously, professionally and efficiently, and in a sympathetic manner.

Your will may be the most important document that have, and the real question that you need to ask yourself when placing your trust to unregulated Will-writers is; What is the real price?