Why Thomas Dunton?

We have been helping the local community for over 40 years and have built a reputation for being professional, approachable and sensitive when it comes to handling our clients' legal concerns.

We also have a wealth of expertise and experience within the firm to assist with all your legal needs. So, when discussing gifting, we can also advise on equity release, buying or selling a property, making and updating your will, and inheritance tax planning, to name just a few examples.

Above all else, we only ever have our clients' best interests at heart and dedicate the time to listen and understand your circumstances and needs, to help make the best decisions for you and your loved ones.

But don't just take our word for it, here is a summary of just some of the things our clients have said about us...

"You have been utterly brilliant when we needed you most."

"Wonderful and understanding. Guided me through the process and presented all the options in a way I could understand."

"Extremely helpful and efficient. Service provided was faultless from start to finish."

"Been a customer for years. Wouldn't go anywhere else."

"Informative, patient, understanding and most helpful."

"Knowledgeable and efficient. You provided helpful and practical advice. A pleasure to deal with."

"In this day and age of impersonal internet services, we feel lucky to have dealt with a firm which operates at the human level."

What else can Thomas Dunton help you with?

Our solicitors are here to talk to you about even the most complex legal matters, to listen to your needs and offer practical solutions.

- Buying & Selling a Property
- Dispute Resolution
- Personal Injury
- Family & Children
- Employment Law
- Mediation
- Powers of Attorney
- Probate
- Contested Probate
- Wills
- Business Law

www.thomasdunton.co.uk

THOMAS DUNTON SOLICITORS

Accredited LEXCEL Practice Management Standard – The Law Society

Solicitors Regulation Authority

Accredited Children Law – The Law Society

Accredited Personal Injury – The Law Society

Accredited Conveyancing Quality Scheme (CQS) – The Law Society

APIL Accredited Practice

resolution first for family law

fsb Experts in Business

Contracted with the **Legal Aid** *agency*

reviewsolicitor

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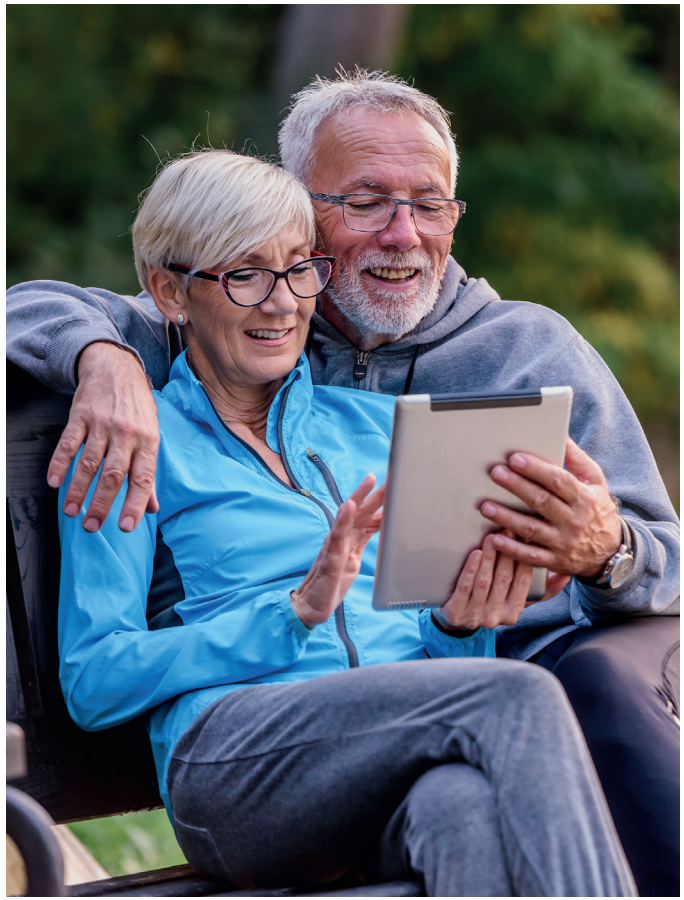
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THOMAS DUNTON SOLICITORS

Your guide to protecting your

Digital Legacy

LOCAL PROFESSIONAL TRUSTED



Do you have an email account? Social media accounts? Photographs stored in some kind of online storage? Have you ever considered what will happen to all of this when you're no longer here?

No? Well, you're certainly not alone

But in an age where so much of our lives exist online, protecting your digital assets is, arguably, as important as protecting your physical possessions. Here we outline the importance of planning for and protecting your digital legacy, and the problems your loved ones may face if you fail to do so before you pass away.

So, what exactly do we mean by digital assets?

Digital assets are anything you own that exist in a digital format. This includes cryptocurrencies, social media accounts, email accounts and online storage.

Why is it important to plan for your digital legacy?

Many people often don't realise, or possibly overlook, how much valuable information is stored in our email and online profiles – from intellectual property, to cherished photographs. As a result, millions of adults in the UK risk leaving grieving loved ones without access to cherished memories and vital information by not planning accordingly.

As with your physical assets, by planning ahead, you can ensure your loved ones can access your online accounts and that your digital legacy is managed according to your wishes. Without proper planning, your loved ones may face significant challenges in accessing or managing these important parts of your life after you have gone, causing additional, and unnecessary, emotional distress.

How do you go about getting your digital assets in order?

We highly recommend keeping a log of all of your online assets and consider who you would like to be able to access these after your death. Creating a secure list and making sure it's regularly updated and stored in a safe place, along with your will, will prove invaluable for those trying to manage your affairs in your absence.

Many online services, like Google, Apple and Facebook, allow you to appoint a legacy contact to access your accounts after you die. After a certain period of inactivity, and on request, your contact can be given a copy of all information stored on your account.

Facebook also have a memorialisation service, where they make people aware that someone has died.

Do you need a solicitor to help plan your digital legacy?

No, especially if you have all of your accounts in order.

However, we are seeing an increasing number of clients wanting to discuss and reference their digital assets in their will. The most common reasons for this include the desire to communicate and document their wishes clearly, to ensure their most treasured photographs of themselves with their loved ones are not lost when they have passed, and to protect intellectual property. They leave us with peace of mind that their family and friends will be spared any additional upset and stress in the event of their death.

Don't leave legal issues too late: seek advice at the earliest stage.