# Maurice Blackburn & Safewill partnership FAQs





#### What is Safewill?

Safewill is the leading provider of will-writing services in Australia, with a focus on bringing wills into the 21st century through the leading use of digital technology.

# Why has Maurice Blackburn engaged Safewill to support union members?

For decades we have provided free standard wills to union members, but we have also recognised some limitations with our current offering. Our partnership with Safewill allows us to provide an easier, quicker will–service with significant benefits to members.

#### How will members access the Safewill service?

First, head to unionwills.com.au to determine whether you're best suited for a standard will or a complex will. If your situation is suitable for a standard will, you will be sent to the Safewill website to complete your will application.

At the time of payment, enter your <u>union voucher code</u>. This will set the cost to \$0. You will also need to enter your union member number and your credit/debit card details – this is just for identification, you will not be charged.

### Who is eligible for a free standard will via Safewill?

All union members and their spouses are entitled to the free standard will service via Safewill.

# What is the difference between a standard will and a complex will?

Standard wills are suitable for people that do not have 'complex' needs and do not require direct legal advice. They are best suited to members whose family and asset circumstances are straightforward, for example, if all your children are from your current relationship or if you do not have children.

Complex wills are best suited to members that have blended family situations or hold complex assets such as SMSF, a business or family trusts. Often, they will need the direct advice and guidance of a lawyer to ensure their will appropriately meets their instructions.

### How will a member be able to identify if they are standard or non-standard?

Before proceeding to Safewill each member will be directed to <u>unionwills.com.au</u> which defines the distinction between a standard and complex will.

This website will enable members to determine if Safewill is the right path to meet their needs. If they need a complex will, they will be able to follow the prompts to set up an obligation-free consult with an MB lawyer.

# What if a member thinks they are standard but in fact have more complex needs?

During the application process, Safewill might identify that the member is best suited to get direct legal advice. In this situation, Safewill will notify the member and propose that they be referred to Maurice Blackburn. With the member's consent, their information will be forwarded to MB who will then engage the member to discuss their options.

### How does the Safewill service compare to MB's previous offering?

The Safewill platform is fully online and has been designed to be an engaging, simple and easy client experience. The application process can be completed in under 20 minutes, and live chat is available to guide and support members throughout. For extra convenience the platform is fully mobile-friendly, so a Will application can be done anywhere and anytime.

## What are the timeframes compared to what our members have experienced to date?

We have recognised that our standard will service is complex and less streamlined from a processing perspective. Typically, the end-to-end timeframe can take close to 8 weeks before a member receives their Will. This compares to a guaranteed 2-day turnaround with Safewill.

### Is the will legally reviewed?

Yes, Safewill legally reviews every will generated on their platform before providing it to the union member for signing.

#### How does a member receive their will?

Once a member's will has been legally reviewed, it will be provided electronically with instructions on how to print and properly execute the will by obtaining the required signatures.

#### Where are the wills generated by Safewill stored?

Safewill does not directly store wills, however, they will retain the information that a member has provided in completing their will application. Safewill offers unlimited amendments to a Will for the first 12 months, and thereafter at \$15 per annum.

### Can MB store a copy of the will that Safewill produces for safekeeping?

Yes, MB can store a copy of the member's will in our secure Deeds Room. The union member just needs to send their documents via registered post to the Deeds Department at MB's Melbourne office address:

Maurice Blackburn Lawyers Level 21 380 La Trobe St Melbourne VIC 3000

# Does Safewill also provide the ability to purchase a Power of Attorney?

Yes, for states where this is available, a POA can be produced in the Safewill platform for \$99 per member (paid for by the member). If the member's spouse also requires a POA this will also be charged at \$99.

### What do Maurice Blackburn charge for complex wills?

In your first appointment with a lawyer, they will discuss your situation and specific needs, and then explain the costs involved once they understand what is required. Your first appointment is free if you choose not to proceed, so you have nothing to lose by taking this important first step.

### What will happen to members who have already made a will with MB?

In these situations, the member will continue to have a direct engagement with MB. Where there is a need for a complete re-write of their will, they can do so using the Safewill platform, unless they fall into a non-standard/complex category.