

Warning over the digital legacy left behind

People in Edinburgh and the Lothians are being urged to think about their “digital legacy” after new research revealed just one in five people over 30 in the UK have referenced digital assets in their will.

The research from The Association of Lifetime Lawyers (formerly Solicitors for the Elderly) found that whilst 86% of UK adults over 30 have digital assets, just 20% referenced them in their will.

Digital assets are anything a person owns that exist in a digital format, rather than a physical one. This includes things like online banking, cryptocurrencies, social media accounts, email accounts and online storage.

The Association of Lifetime Lawyers is the UK-wide membership body for legal professionals supporting vulnerable and older people with expert advice and support.

Dot Mullally, partner with Edinburgh-based McDougall McQueen solicitors, said including reference to digital assets in a will can help minimise distress for loved ones after you die, and ensures they can access your important online accounts.

Ms Mullally said: “In today’s digital age, the majority of us now hold digital assets, whether that’s an online bank account

or social media profile.

“Half of adults over 30 have a will, but a tiny number have considered their digital legacy.

“Without proper planning, your loved ones might not be able to access or manage these important parts of your life after you’re gone.

“It’s a good idea to keep a log of your accounts. Start by making a secure list with login details and passwords. Make sure it’s regularly updated and stored in a safe place, along with your will.

“Some online services, like Apple and Facebook, allow you to appoint a legacy contact to make decisions about your accounts after you die.

“It’s crucial that more people consider their digital belongings before they die to make it easier for friends and family to access their accounts.”



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