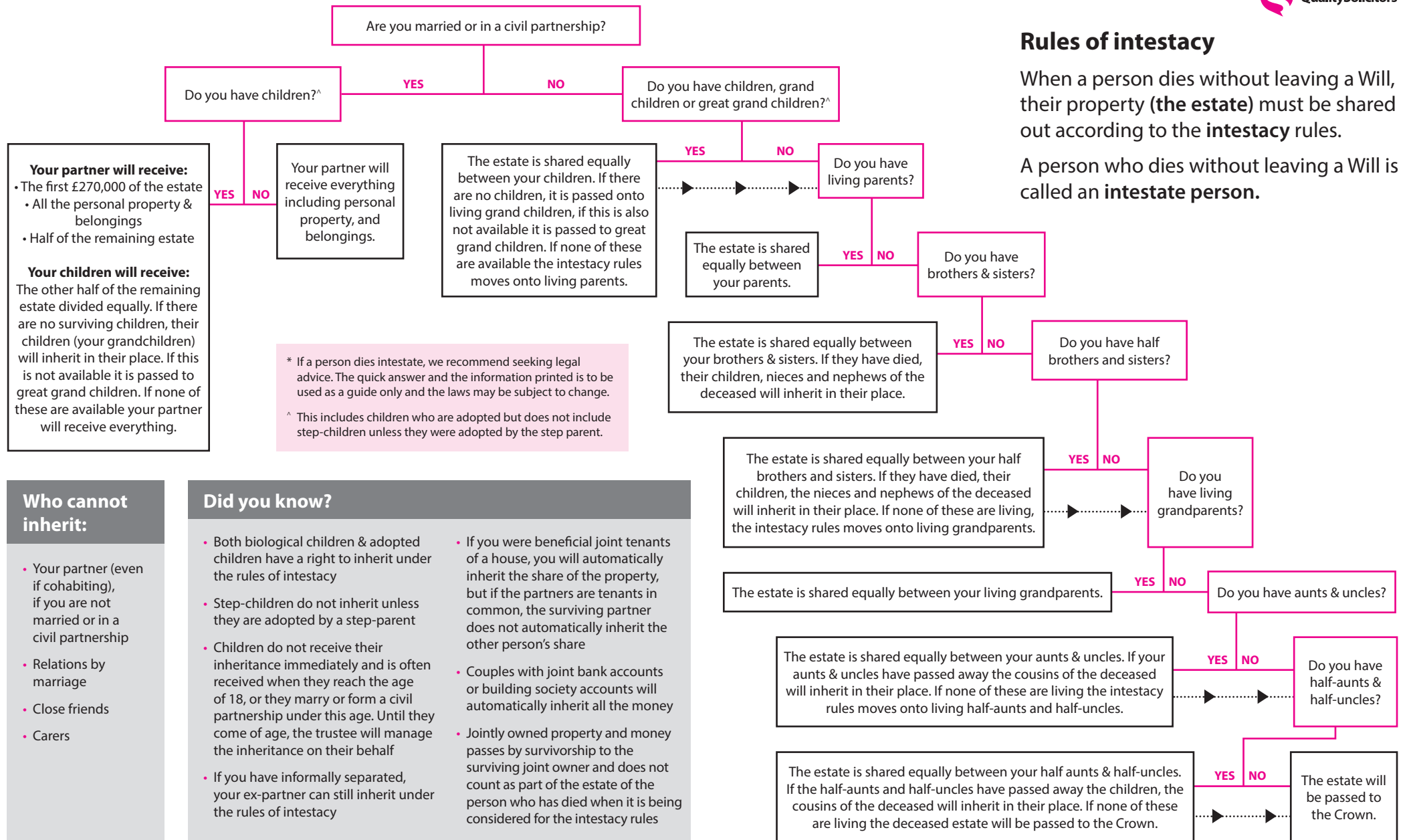


TIME IS PRECIOUS, DON'T LEAVE IT UNTIL TOMORROW

# Intestacy Rules – Quick Answer\* Flow Chart

**Moore & Tibbits**  
Solicitors

a member of  
QualitySolicitors



## Rules of intestacy

When a person dies without leaving a Will, their property (**the estate**) must be shared out according to the **intestacy rules**.

A person who dies without leaving a Will is called an **intestate person**.

### Who cannot inherit:

- Your partner (even if cohabiting), if you are not married or in a civil partnership
- Relations by marriage
- Close friends
- Carers

### Did you know?

- Both biological children & adopted children have a right to inherit under the rules of intestacy
- Step-children do not inherit unless they are adopted by a step-parent
- Children do not receive their inheritance immediately and is often received when they reach the age of 18, or they marry or form a civil partnership under this age. Until they come of age, the trustee will manage the inheritance on their behalf
- If you have informally separated, your ex-partner can still inherit under the rules of intestacy
- If you were beneficial joint tenants of a house, you will automatically inherit the share of the property, but if the partners are tenants in common, the surviving partner does not automatically inherit the other person's share
- Couples with joint bank accounts or building society accounts will automatically inherit all the money
- Jointly owned property and money passes by survivorship to the surviving joint owner and does not count as part of the estate of the person who has died when it is being considered for the intestacy rules