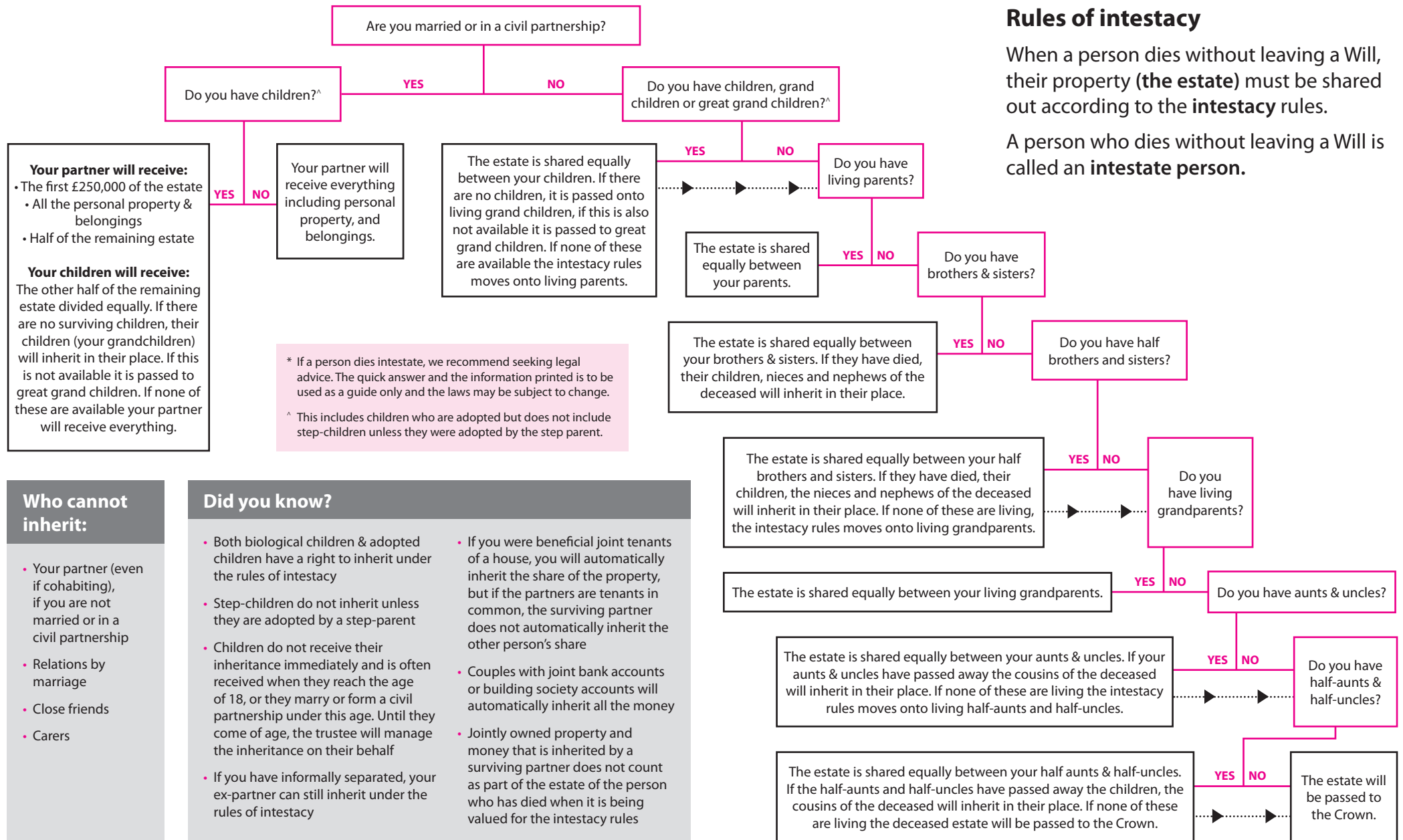


TIME IS PRECIOUS, DON'T LEAVE IT UNTIL TOMORROW

# Intestacy Rules – Quick Answer\* Flow Chart



## 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 that is inherited by a surviving partner does not count as part of the estate of the person who has died when it is being valued for the intestacy rules