



**What is an executor/executrix?
Whom should I select?**

The executor's role is to carry out the intentions of your will.

You should give thoughtful consideration of the selection of this person and an alternate.

Many people choose a trusted family member; others choose a bank or attorney.

Important points to check if you already have a will

1. Is your will up-to-date?
2. Have you moved to another state since you wrote your will?
3. Do you still want the same distribution of your estate made?
4. Are your beneficiaries still alive?
5. Have you disposed of some of the assets mentioned in your will?
6. Are there any new assets which should be included?
7. Are you satisfied with the person named as executor(trix) and his/her alternate?
8. Should you establish trusts for your loved ones in order to reduce the size of your taxable estate?
9. Should you include your favorite charities or church in your will?
10. Should you transfer ownership of certain life insurance policies in order to reduce your taxable estate?
11. Should you have your attorney review your will to make certain you are taking advantage of any recent changes in the law?

When you write or review your will, please consider a charitable bequest. The following legal phrase is suggested:

"I give, devise and bequeath to THE ARTHRITIS RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, with its principal office at 300 S. Duncan Ave., Suite 188, Clearwater, FL 33755, the sum of (dollars) (or otherwise describe the gift)."

If we can be of any assistance to you, please call us at

(727) 461-4054



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Your Will

...is an opportunity

to distribute your property, assets you spent a lifetime acquiring, the way you want



...is a chance

to give individuals a piece of your life and have some of your ideals live on!



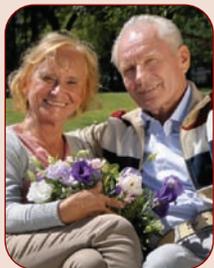


Many people are reluctant to have their will drawn up for a myriad of reasons. But what they don't realize is a number of states have already written a will which will be invoked if they die intestate (without making a will).

Although state laws differ, there is no guarantee that your estate will be distributed the way you would have wanted unless you write a will.

Your assets are your estate. Many people think they don't need a will because they don't believe their estate is large enough. The truth is, sometimes a will can be even more important when the estate is small, because there's less room for error.

If I can leave all my belongings to my spouse, why do I need a will?



Unless you specifically name your spouse as sole recipient of your estate, some states have predetermined that your spouse would receive half of your estate, and the other half be divided among your children.

Having a will ensures that your estate will be divided among your heirs—family, friends, charities — exactly as you wish.

In any event, if you do not have a will, you need to prepare one right away.

At what age should I write a will?

It is never too early to take care of this responsibility. Some people believe a will is unnecessary unless their estate has considerable assets.

Actually, writing a will has little to do with how much your estate is worth, but rather how you want those assets shared upon your death.

How do I go about writing my will?



Because of many complex laws governing estates of deceased persons, it is highly recommended that you have an attorney in your state draw up your will.

This will help eliminate much of the emotional strain, distress, red tape and worry involved in the settlement process. Your attorney can also advise you about different ways of transferring your estate to your designated heirs that will reduce settlement costs and taxes, e.g. through trusts or charitable gifts, etc.

How do I include my favorite charity in my will?



Indicate to your attorney that you wish to donate a portion of your estate to a charity. Make certain you use the correct legal name of the charity and its address.

You may designate a percentage of your estate, or a specific amount or all remaining assets after other bequests have been made. Other methods, like trusts, may be used and can easily be set up with your attorney.



What happens to my will when I die?

At your death, your executor will file the will for probate. The probate court will then determine whether or not the will is in fact yours and bona fide.

A notice is printed in a local newspaper informing possible creditors that the will has been filed. The executor pays all outstanding debts, estate taxes, state taxes, income taxes and attorney and executor fees out of your estate.

The remainder of your estate is then distributed according to your wishes as specified in your will.

Do I ever need to change my will?

You need to review your will regularly to make sure it still does today what you wanted it to do. Estate planning is not a one-time event; it is an ongoing process.



Frequently overlooked are the changes that occur due to the needs of children/grandchildren. These relatives, once considered having equal

needs, may have diverse needs because of health problems, unemployment, marital status, etc.

Minor changes or the addition of specific bequests need an amendment, or codicil, to your will. Make sure it is dated, signed and properly witnessed. Keep your will, and amendments, in a safe deposit box or other safe place.