Don't put off making a will



Let us advise you of the benefits...



Can you afford to be without a will?

FAQs

What if I already have a Will?

Make sure you know where it is. It is important that your Will is still in accordance with your wishes and current circumstances.

Is it hard to make a Will?

Making a Will is easy. Our expert staff will guide you through the process, asking you the right questions to ensure your Will fully represents your wishes, personal circumstances and financial protection.

Once the document is drafted we will see you again for signature and completion.

How much does a Will cost?

A simple Will costs \$200.00 + GST* plus disbursements such as photocopying. For more complicated Wills or other documents we will provide you with an estimate of fees before we start work.

How long does it take to make a Will?

For a simple Will, we guarantee to draft it within two weeks of receiving your instructions. Complex Wills can take a little longer.

What else do I need?

A Will takes effect when you die, but there are some important documents that ensure your affairs are kept in order while you are alive. By making an Enduring Power of Attorney, you give trusted persons the power to conduct legal and financial business on your behalf in the event that you are unable to do this for yourself. An Appointment of Enduring Guardian, which only operates should a doctor determine you have lost mental capacity, allows your appointed guardians to make decisions concerning your medical treatment and living arrangements. It is very important to have all three legal documents mentioned above in place.

*Fees current as of January 2014. Subject to change without notice.



Who should make a Will?

Anyone over the age of 18 years should make a Will.

It is especially important that you make a Will or review your Will if you:

- have assets which you would like distributed in a certain way
- own your own business
- get married, enter into a defacto relationship or get divorced
- have children
- have a family member with special needs
- wish to leave money to a charity or non-profit organisation.

Who benefits if I make a Will?

You get peace of mind knowing that you have done everything possible to properly benefit your loved ones and that everyone is clear on your wishes.

A professionally drafted Will tells your family members and loved ones that you have taken time to put your affairs in order and how you would like your estate to be distributed.



What happens if you don't have a Will?

- Your estate can be distributed in accordance with a Government statutory formula.
- Your belongings may not go to the people or organisations you want them to go to. Some or all may end up going to the Government.
- Your estate may have to pay some avoidable taxes.
- People you do not approve of could be appointed as guardians of your children.
- Your family members with special needs may not be adequately provided for in line with your wishes.



Documents to protect you, your business and your loved ones.

Will

A Will is a legal document that clearly sets out your wishes for the distribution of your assets after your death.

TIPS:

- Review your Will every two to four years (or as circumstances require).
- Have more than one Executor in case the Executor dies before you.
- If you are divorced, have children, or have a business, consider a Will with a Testamentary Trust.
- A List of Wishes often accompanies a Will and asks your Executor to give specific items to specific people. (For example, you may want to give your wedding ring to your daughter and late husband's war medals to your son.)

Living Will

A Living Will or "Directions as to Care" tells your Guardian(s) what you want done if you are on life support treatment and medical opinion says there is no reasonable chance of your return to awareness.

TIP:

 Make sure your Legal Guardian knows where the Living Will is held.

Testamentary Trust Will

A Testamentary Trust is a trust that is created on your death by your Will. The Will acts as the trust deed for the Testamentary Trust. The Will allows you to appoint trusted people to act as Trustees of the Trust and control distributions from the trust to the populated beneficiaries.

Testamentary Trusts can provide significant advantages for your beneficiaries with regard to taxation, asset protection and bloodline protection of assets in family law settlements.

TIP:

 Consider having a separate Testamentary Trust for each of your children.

Enduring Power of Attorney

Enduring Power of Attorney gives a trusted person that you appoint the power to control your possessions and property subject to any conditions you impose. For example your Attorney may withdraw money from your bank accounts to pay your bills. It does not allow your Attorney to make health or medical decisions on your behalf.

TIPS:

- Enduring Power of Attorney may continue to be effective in the event you suffer loss of mental capacity such as dementia.
- Register with NSW CPI if you want your Attorney to buy or sell land on your behalf.

Enduring Guardianship

Enduring Guardianship gives a trusted person that you appoint permission to make medical decisions and give consent to doctors and health professionals if you are unable to do so.

TIP:

 Your husband or wife is your Legal Guardian but you should also nominate other Guardian(s) in case your husband or wife dies before you.



For more information about protecting your wishes and your loved ones contact our Estate Planning team members today.

Contact us

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Disclaimer: This document does not constitute specific legal advice and you should seek specific legal advice about your own circumstances before acting on the general information presented in this document.

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