

## Have you made your Will?

Having a Will is one of the most important things you can do for yourself and your family. It legally protects your spouse, children, and assets, and it also indicates exactly how you would like your estate handled after you have passed on.

A Will is a legally binding document that lets you determine how you would like your estate to be handled and how assets within an estate are to be distributed upon your death. It might also include your wishes as to who you want to care for your young children after you die and your burial wishes.

Everyone should have a Will. If you do not have one, the assets within your estate may not go to the people you want them to, and there is no guarantee your intended desires will be carried out. Having a Will also minimizes any family fights about your estate that may arise. In essence, a Will allows you to decide how your estate will be distributed and importantly, to whom.

A Will provides opportunities to make critical decisions about who should take care of your young children should that need arise. Without a Will, the Court will take it upon itself to choose among family members or a state-appointed guardian. Having a Will means that you can appoint the person you want to raise your children, or better, make sure it is not someone you do not want to raise your children.

To be eligible to make a Will, you need to be at least 18 years of age and be able to understand what you are doing. This is known as having *testamentary capacity*.

Have a think about these questions before you make a Will:

- Do you need help making your Will?
- What assets do you own?
- Who will be your executor/s?
- Who you want to leave your assets to?
- If you have young children, who will be their guardian?

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