

The Top 5 Reasons You Need a Will

You might be wondering to yourself: Why do I care? I don't have millions of dollars or a mansion. What does this have to do with me? Having a will prepared is important. Especially, as an adult, it's a responsible and final act of consideration for your family. The truth is, will planning is for everyone, regardless of age or assets. Just as you wear your seat belt for protection, you should have your will in order.

5 Reasons You Need a Will

These five elements of a basic will benefit you, your family and others whom you care about.

1. Direct the division of your property the way you choose, not the way the state decides.
2. Outline special financial arrangements for family members who are minors, have special needs or are unfamiliar with money management.
3. Identify an executor (chosen by you) who is qualified to settle your estate promptly and economically with careful attention to your wishes.
4. Provide guardianship for any minor children.
5. Support charitable organizations that are important to you.

Creating a will isn't complicated. Putting your wishes in writing ensures that the people and causes you care about are taken care of after you're gone. Depending on where you live, a basic will can cost you just a few hundred dollars. Resist the urge to look for a deal, and avoid do-it-yourself kits.

Already Have a Will?

If you have already created a will, make sure it's up to date. Life changes—such as births, deaths or marriages; increased estate values; or a move to another state—should trigger you to meet with your estate planning attorney to review and update your will.

Need Help?

If you need help getting started or have questions about how you can include charitable organizations in your will, please contact [Spencer Carr](#) at 706-754-9231 or spencer@thecarrlawgroup.com. I'd be happy to help!

Adapted from University of Texas Gift & Estate Planning Team