

Why Do I Need a *Will*?

I know what you're thinking... "I just want everything to go to my spouse." Or "I don't really have much anyway." With those ideas in mind, it's easy to overlook the true benefits that a Will can provide for you, and especially your family...



Gifts of Specific Items or Amounts

- Without a Will (or Trust), the law won't recognize that you want your autographed baseball to go to one son v. the other, or that you'd like to give \$5,000 to your church or favorite charity.
- Regardless of financial worth, many items may hold sentimental value. You can ensure that those items are put in the possession of those loved ones who will appreciate it most.

Nominating Executors and/or Guardians

- Your Will allows you to list a person(s) to oversee the administration of your estate (called the "Executor"). This is an important and sometimes stressful function, and without a Will, the probate court will appoint someone who may or may not be best suited for the job.
- The Will allows you (and not the probate judge) to identify the person(s) who you'd like to care for your minor children after you pass away... Imagine leaving that to chance?

Provide for Distributions via Trust

- If you pass away without a Will, all beneficiaries of your estate will inherit "outright," which fails to protect the assets being passed down...
- Alternatively, when money and other assets are held in trust for the benefit of your spouse and/or children, those assets are shielded from **DIVORCE**, **LAWSUITS**, **CREDITORS** and **BANKRUPTCY** proceedings!

Peace of Mind

- Consider how preferable it is to know that you spared your loved ones any confusion or debate about what you wanted.