



A Guide to Making Your Will


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Direct Your Assets to the People and Causes You Care About Most

Making a will is an important way to extend your love, care, generosity and gratitude to family and friends. It is also an excellent way to support our mission. So why have 60 percent of U.S. adults living in households with children not created a will?

Perhaps the whole thing seems too time-consuming, difficult or even mysterious. To overcome these obstacles, review this helpful guide that gives clear answers to the questions you may have.

What Happens if You Don't Have a Will?

If you die without a will, your estate will be divided according to laws in the state where you live. The resulting transfer of assets may be very different from what you had wished. While certain family members will likely receive part of your estate, close friends or charities that you may have wanted to remember will not be included. Also, if you are a parent of minor children, dying without a will can have significant ramifications, such as a court deciding who will care for your children.

executor: the person named in a will to manage the estate, collect the property, pay any debt, and distribute property according to the will

codicil: a written and properly witnessed legal change to a will

residuary estate: the part of an estate left after debts, taxes and specific bequests have been paid

What Can You Put in Your Will?

Only you know the special circumstances of your family members and heirs. That's why it's important to discuss these factors with your attorney. Some things to address include how you want to distribute your estate, whom you want to be executor and what charities you wish to support.

For example, you may want your will to:

- Name the **executor** of your estate.
- Give your property to those you choose.
- Set up trusts to save on taxes and provide financial management.
- Name a guardian for minor children.
- Ensure lifetime care for a child with a disability.
- Pass what you choose to children of a prior marriage.
- Set guidelines for distributions if you and your spouse die at the same time.

Ask your attorney about a living will and a durable power of attorney in case you become incapacitated.

Why Leave Charitable Gifts in Your Will?

Bequests allow individuals to make larger gifts than they could during their lifetime to support our work. In addition, gifts through a will are flexible—they can be changed as individuals' circumstances in life change.

Typical Components (Articles) of a Will

Your attorney may suggest other components, but be prepared to talk about these items so you will be in a position to have a document drafted that accomplishes your wishes.

- ✓ Revocation of prior wills and **codicils**
- ✓ Name of executor
- ✓ Payment of taxes and administration of estate
- ✓ Payment of debts
- ✓ Specific gifts
- ✓ **Residuary estate**
- ✓ Common disaster

You Can Revoke Your Will

Note that one of the articles in your will is "revocation of prior wills and codicils."

Relationships and situations change. You are free to alter your will with a codicil or to change your will entirely at any time.

If you have a prior will, ask your attorney what to do with it to avoid confusion about which version is most current.



We want to work with you to create a gift that best fits your circumstances and our needs. To learn more about including Feeding South Florida in your will, please contact us today.



Main Warehouse
2501 SW 32 Terrace
Pembroke Park, FL 33023
954.518.1818

www.feedingsouthflorida.org