

Why Write a Will?

The planning and writing of a will is both a family obligation and a personal privilege.

We live in a nation of laws. During our entire lifetime, different laws apply to us. When we are born, our birth is registered as required by law. During life, we comply with legal requirements in purchasing a home, in paying taxes, in securing a passport and in many more of life's activities.

When we die, our life's passing is noted in securing a death certificate and in the probate process. In all of life's activities, the law is there.

One of the most important legal opportunities each of us faces pertains to the future ownership of our possessions. Before we die, we can make a will that determines who will receive our estates.

In the event we do not have a will, the court will decide for us, in accordance with provincial law, often ignoring our important preferences. Deciding not to write a will reflects a lack of civic responsibility and a lost opportunity to demonstrate our love to those whom we cherish.

Every person has the legal right to make a will. Details of your will include the naming of an executor, deciding who will serve as guardians of minor children, providing guidelines concerning how they will be raised, determining the use of accumulated wealth, and expressing gratitude for all of life's blessings by giving to the charity or charities of your choice.

Life involves a string of choices, and the most important choices we make involve the use and disposition of what we have. This is called stewardship, the management of our resources.

These acts during our lifetime become a statement of our faith. Our last act, our will, serves as a final testimony of our faith journey in life. We exercise a spiritual privilege when we plan and write our own will.

For additional assistance and for drafting a will, contact your lawyer. Perhaps you would also like to talk with our gift planning representative, John Doe. He can provide basic information about wills and bequests and share the various ways others have included [ABC] Charity in their estate plans. You can reach John by calling 888-123-4567, or by completing and returning the response form below.

(Please complete and return this reply form)

Dear Friends at [ABC] Charity:

- ☐ Please send me free literature about making a will.
- ☐ Please contact me about a personal visit or other assistance.
- ☐ I have already provided a bequest for [ABC] Charity in my will.
- ☐ Please send me information about the [ABC] Heritage Society.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____