



DD WEST LLP

DD West LLP — An introduction to the importance of wills

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What is a will?

A will is a testamentary document that sets forth your wishes regarding distribution of your assets and property upon your passing. Having a will helps you plan for the future, ensures those you love are taken care of, and that any potential for conflict is reduced.

People plan for their futures in different ways and so wills need to reflect individual desires and concerns. Without a will, an estate is “*intestate*,” — this means who is appointed as executor, who qualifies as a beneficiary, and when and how your estate is distributed is determined by legislation. This can lead to conflict and protracted and expensive litigation. Creating an estate plan, including a will, allows you to protect your wishes and control your estate.

DD West can assist you with preparing your will and estate plan, make changes to an existing will, review a current will to ensure it meets current legislation standards, and advise you on what other estate planning steps or documents may be beneficial.

What do wills do?

A will allows you to make determinations as to what will happen with the administration and distribution of your estate, among other directions. Depending on the unique needs, desires, and situations of individuals and their families, there will be different clauses and factors to consider and include when preparing a will (for example, whether a trust for minor children needs to be considered.) Some key decisions everyone needs to consider when preparing their wills are:

- who will administer the estate (who will be executor),
- who will inherit your estate (who are the beneficiaries), and
- who will be the guardian of any minor or dependent children.

More Information on wills

The law surrounding estate planning is constantly evolving. DD West advises to review your will often to ensure it reflects your current intentions and desires for your estate. If you would like to learn more about wills, estates, and estate planning, please don't hesitate to contact the author, Jenna M. Bever, by phone at 587-324-2034, EXT 212, or by email at jbever@ddwestllp.com.