

Take Care of Your Family's Future Now

Most of us know we “should” have a will — yet just over half of us don't. Maybe it's cost, the hassle, or just being unaware of the consequences of not having one. Creating a will now may be one of the most meaningful gifts you leave to your loved ones.

Consider the Benefits

- ✓ Peace of mind knowing your wishes are in writing.
- ✓ Beneficiaries and asset distribution are pre-determined.
- ✓ You name guardians for your children — not the courts.
- ✓ Designates charitable contributions in your name.
- ✓ Provisions are made for pets.
- ✓ Provides your final funeral wishes.

Will

A will is a legal document that outlines how you want your assets distributed. Most wills must go through a probate process before the estate can be settled.

vs.

Trust

A trust may allow you to potentially transfer assets to beneficiaries without probate.

Always consult with a qualified financial planner or estate planning attorney for professional advice.

The Great Generational Wealth Transfer

It's anticipated that older generations will be transferring nearly **\$1 trillion** (much of it from real estate wealth) to younger generations by 2026.

Steps to Tackle This Important Task

Websites:

- ✓ willful.co
- ✓ legalwills.ca
- ✓ epiloguewills.com

For more complex estates, consult an estate attorney.

Choose your:

- ✓ **Executor of your estate**
- ✓ **Beneficiaries of your estate**
- ✓ **Guardians for minors**
- ✓ **Caretakers for pets**

Taking the time to create a will gives you peace of mind knowing that your final wishes are clear and in writing.

Documents

Compile these documents and store in a secure place at home or with a lawyer or trust company.

- ☐ Last Will & Testament
- ☐ Canadian Registered Retirement Savings Plan and Tax-Free Savings Account
- ☐ Bank account statements
- ☐ Life insurance policies
- ☐ Pensions
- ☐ Stocks/investments
- ☐ Other financial accounts
- ☐ Proof of Ownership
 - ___ Property deeds
 - ___ Vehicle documents
 - ___ Mortgage
 - ___ Loans
- ☐ Credit card statements
- ☐ Copy of Social Insurance Number that is on an official card or letter
- ☐ Copy of driver's licence
- ☐ Birth certificate
- ☐ Marriage licence
- ☐ Divorce decree
- ☐ Passport
- ☐ Document with online passwords
- ☐ Location of safety deposit box and key
- ☐ Power of Attorney
- ☐ Healthcare directives (including end-of-life care instructions)
- ☐ Funeral plans (service, cremation, burial, etc.)
- ☐ Contact info for loved one's beneficiaries and advisors (banker, lawyer, accountant, investment advisor, insurance agent)

I know this issue can be complicated, so if you need additional advice or a referral to a qualified professional, let me know and I'll connect you to one in my network.