

10. It's easy to make a will!

A last will and testament contains instructions on how your property should be distributed when you die. Spelling out exactly how you would like your estate handled provides peace of mind for you and your loved ones.

Today, it's easier than ever to make a will.

A good resource to get you started is freewill.com, a free planning tool that guides you through the process of making a will.

After you've thought about how you want to distribute your assets, we recommend that you seek the advice of a trusted legal advisor, especially if your personal situation is complex.

Don't procrastinate! Once you die, the opportunity to make a will is gone. The result is often a great deal of stress during a very emotional time for your surviving family members.

Next steps



TALK TO US. We're ready to assist you. Call 585.394.1381 or send a message to woodlibrary@owwl.org.



MEET WITH A TRUSTED ADVISER. A trusted legal adviser can guide you through the process of drawing up a will and present tax-smart options for your estate.



CONSIDER A BEQUEST FOR WOOD LIBRARY. Do you want to create a legacy for Wood Library? We are eager to share information about library services, new initiatives, and plans for the future. Contact the Executive Director to learn more about *The Legacy Society*.

Sample bequest language can be found at woodlibrary.org/legacy/

TOP 10 REASONS TO MAKE A WILL



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1. Save your loved ones time, money and stress.

Most estates go through probate to start the legal process for distributing assets upon your death. Without a will, this gets complicated because the court names an administrator. With a will, you choose who will handle your estate, making it easier and smoother for your loved ones.

2. Determine who will manage your estate.

Choose an executor who is capable and trustworthy to carry out your wishes.

3. Decide who gets your assets and property.

Name people or charitable organizations as beneficiaries for specific assets or any residual value of your estate.

4. Choose who will care for your minor children.

This is one of the most important reasons to have a will. Typically, a surviving parent will get sole legal custody of minor children. However, you can name a guardian who will be responsible for your children's daily needs, including food, housing, health care, education, and clothing. Without a named guardian, a court will decide who will raise your kids.

5. Provide a home or plan for your pets.

Name a beneficiary or caretaker for your pets and set aside funds to provide for their care.

6. Leave instructions for digital assets.

An executor can be named to manage digital assets such as online accounts, social media, email, and digital files.

7. Lower the potential for family disputes.

If you die without a will, your family has to guess what your final wishes were. Chances are, they may not agree. This ambiguity can create friction, and even fights, which sometimes last a lifetime. Making a will solves this problem by eliminating guesswork.

8. Provide funeral instructions.

Instructions about funeral arrangements are not legally binding but they offer guidance and peace of mind for those who are left behind.

9. Create a legacy.

Leave a positive impact on the world! Support the causes you love most by leaving a small or substantial part of your estate to a charitable organization. This can also offer tax savings for your heirs.