


# 5 REASONS TO MAKE A WILL

From



## Secure Your Legacy.

August is *Make a Will Month*, a time dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of estate planning and encouraging individuals to take the necessary steps to  [create a will](#).

### What is a Will and who needs one?

A Will, also referred to as a Last Will and Testament, is a legal document that states your intentions for the distribution of your property and assets after you die. If you have children, a Will also outlines who will care for them if something happens to you. Every person over the age of 18 needs a Will, regardless of their worth, on paper.

### Why do I need a Will? 5 reasons to create one now:

1. **Get the final say.** If you pass away without a Will, you're considered "intestate." This means the laws of the state will direct how to divide up your estate without your input. If you die without a Will and have no heirs, your estate could pass to the state.
2. **Minimize family conflicts.** We've all heard of cases where the surviving family members must grieve while squabbling with their siblings. Upon your death, your loved ones should mourn, not battle. When it comes to your wishes, there should be no room for misinterpretation that could lead to conflict or legal action.

3. **Ensure your loved ones are cared for.** If you have minor children, your Will also designates who will care for them if something happens to you. Without a Will, the court must decide who is appropriate to be your children's guardians—again, without your input. Your Will allows you to designate the people you trust to be their guardians. This even includes your beloved pets, who deserve all the best in life too!
4. **Create a lasting legacy.** Whether you wish to leave everything to your children and spouse or donate it to a charity with a mission that matters to you, a Will gives you the final say. Create a legacy that gives your life meaning instead of letting the state decide who receives your assets.
5. **For your mental health.** According to a recent LegalShield survey, people with Wills are more likely to feel positive emotions: 40% peaceful, 37% confident, and 26% empowered. Those without a Will are twice as likely to feel stressed and afraid as those with Wills. Let there be no doubt: a Will is in your and your family's best interest.




## Write your Will in 3 easy steps:

While making a Will leaves much for you to consider, your LegalShield benefit simplifies this process. Your provider lawyer can help you draft a Will, Power of Attorney and Advanced Healthcare Directive (also known as a Living Will) in three simple steps:

1. **Answer a few questions about your estate and belongings.** Whom would you trust to care for your children? Your beloved pet? Who will inherit your assets and wealth? Wedding rings? Car? Golf clubs...?
2. **Fill out the mobile app Will questionnaire and upload it directly to your provider law firm.** They will guide you through the process, ensuring everything complies with state laws and your wishes.
3. **Your provider lawyer prepares your Will within 5 business days.** If you have questions, you can schedule a consultation with your lawyer.



For more on how LegalShield can help with will creation and estate planning, get more tips from  [LegalShield Provider Lawyer John Markham.](#)

## Will preparation is part of this employee benefit.

If you are enrolled in this benefit, reach out to your provider lawyer or start making your Will using the LegalShield mobile app or web portal. If you are not enrolled, you can do so during your employer's next open enrollment period.

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