



5 Reasons Why You Should Have a Will

1. Take care of your loved ones

If you pass away without a Will, your death is classed as 'intestate'. This means that your assets will be distributed according to a legal formula by the state government. If you want to determine who receives your assets and property, it is essential that you write a Will. You can also leave sentimental items or heirlooms to particular individuals so they can remember you for years to come.

2. Decide who will manage your estate

When you create a Will, you can nominate an 'executor' who will manage your assets and carry out any directions you include. An executor will manage important practical tasks like closing bank accounts, paying any outstanding bills and cancelling memberships. The person you nominate should be someone you know and trust to give effect to your final wishes.

3. Provide funeral instructions

Whilst it can be uncomfortable to think about, including instructions for your funeral can provide guidance as to your wishes and help to relieve the stresses of planning a funeral for your loved ones. Instructions can include anything from naming a funeral executor to organise

the process, including a desired venue for the service, to specifying a preference to be buried or cremated.

4. Avoid potential issues and delays

The ambiguity that exists when there is not a Will can lead to a range of unpleasant scenarios, including lengthy and costly legal proceedings for your loved ones, interpersonal disputes, and financial stress for your spouse or next of kin. Creating a Will provides clarity for your loved ones during a difficult time and ensures that your beneficiaries receive your legacy without delay.

5. Include a charitable gift

Including a charitable gift in your Will is a great way to express your support for a particular cause or organisation that is important to you. You may choose to leave a specific sum of money, a percentage of your estate, or a residual bequest – it is completely up to you.

Why leave a bequest with Caritas Australia

If you decide to create a Will or make an amendment, you might consider leaving a charitable gift to Caritas Australia.

Caritas Australia is the international aid and development agency of the Catholic Church in Australia and is committed to ending poverty, promoting justice and upholding dignity.

If you decide to leave a bequest, we are able to provide ongoing support to marginalised communities for generations to come. Your gift will help vulnerable children, women and men to build upon their strengths and become self-sufficient so that they can forge a path out of poverty.

It also ensures that we can continue to provide lifesaving aid and relief to people affected by natural disasters and humanitarian crises.

If you have any questions or would like to find out more about how to include Caritas Australia in your Will, please download our free [Gifts in Wills Guide](#) or contact our **Bequests Specialist** on **0437 182 339** or email legacyoflove@caritas.org.au.

