10 Powerful Truths About Making a Will

*A Resource for Anyone Who Wants to Leave a Legacy*

**Introduction**

Creating a will isn’t just about money. It’s about making your voice heard, protecting your loved ones, and leaving a legacy that reflects your values. Yet too many people delay or avoid this important step—often because of misconceptions, fear, or the belief that it’s only for the wealthy.

The truth is, everyone needs a will, no matter the size of your estate or stage of life. This article breaks down 10 essential truths about will-making that every donor should know—especially those who care about family, community, and the causes they love.

**Truth 1: You Don’t Need to Be Rich to Need a Will**

Even if your estate is modest, you likely own things of emotional, personal, or financial value—a car, family heirlooms, savings, or sentimental possessions. A will ensures these items are passed on to the people or organizations that matter to you.

**Truth 2: Your Family Can’t Legally Enforce Verbal Wishes**

No matter how clearly you’ve expressed your desires, verbal promises carry no legal weight. Without a properly executed will, your state’s intestacy laws will decide how your estate is distributed—often in ways that don’t reflect your real intentions.

**Truth 3: Guardianship of Your Children Is Too Important to Leave to Chance**

If you have minor children, naming a legal guardian in your will is one of the most loving decisions you can make. Without it, the court chooses who raises your children, and that decision might not reflect your values or relationships.

**Truth 4: You Don’t Need a Lawyer to Create a Valid Will**

Many people can create a legally valid will on their own using trusted online tools or templates. While attorneys are valuable for complex estates, basic wills can often be done affordably, quickly, and confidently with digital solutions.

**Truth 5: Making a Will Can Be Quick and Surprisingly Affordable**

Thanks to technology, will-making has become more accessible, budget-friendly, and user-friendly. Many platforms offer step-by-step guidance and options starting at little to no cost. There’s no longer a reason to put it off.

**Truth 6: Most States Make Will Execution Simple**

In most states, a will becomes valid once it is signed by you and witnessed by two adults (who are not beneficiaries). Some states also allow notarization for added protection. The process is more straightforward than most people think.

**Truth 7: Courts Are Legally Obligated to Honor Valid Wills**

A properly executed will is a legally binding document. As long as it meets your state’s requirements and is clear, it will be enforced—even if someone doesn’t agree with your decisions. Your wishes matter, and the law supports that.

**Truth 8: Young Adults Need Wills Too—Life Is Unpredictable**

Turning 18 means becoming a legal adult. If you own a car, have digital accounts, pets, or strong values, you should have a will. Accidents are a leading cause of death for young adults—don’t leave decisions about your life to chance.

**Truth 9: Your Will Should Evolve With Your Life**

A will isn’t one-and-done. Update it after major life events—marriage, children, divorce, financial changes, or relocation. Keeping it current ensures your legacy stays aligned with your reality.

**Truth 10: Your Debts Don’t Die With You**

When you die, your estate pays your debts before anything is passed on. A will helps you plan for debt settlement, minimize stress for loved ones, and protect certain assets or gifts for your heirs and favorite charities.

**Conclusion**

A will isn’t just a legal document. It’s a final act of care, clarity, and purpose. It brings peace of mind—not only to you, but to the family and causes you leave behind. Don’t wait for the “right time.” There’s no better time than now.

**Disclaimer**

This article provides general information about will requirements in the United States. Laws vary by state, so consult your state’s specific requirements or an attorney for guidance on your situation.

For residents of Louisiana, Alaska, Puerto Rico, or community property states, professional legal guidance is strongly encouraged.

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