



What Is a Will?

A will is a legal document that serves two functions. First, it lists who will inherit your stuff after your death. For example, your spouse, or your children, if your spouse dies before you.

If you have a revocable trust, you'll need "a pour-over will," which on your death will transfer your assets into your revocable trust, which will in turn help your estate avoid probate.

The second function of the will is to nominate guardians for any children under 18, in case you and your child's other parent pass away before your child becomes an adult.

If you do not have a will, the state of CA will give your assets to your nearest living relatives, and a probate court judge will decide who will raise your children – so it's probably better to have one.

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