

Services

Wills
Powers of Attorney
Health Care Proxies
Living Wills
Medicare Benefits
Estate Planning
Tax Planning
Living Trusts
Age Discrimination
Special Needs Planning & Trusts
Long Term Care Planning
Nursing Home Admissions
Medicaid Eligibility
Health/Life Insurance Claims
Elder Abuse
Guardianships

Location

Our handicapped-accessible Vestal office has convenient parking and covered entryway. We also make home, hospital, and nursing home visits.

For further information, please contact practice group chair, Kathryn Grant Madigan, Esq. at kmadigan@lgtlegal.com

Elder Law Group

Attorneys

Greg S. Catarella	Lana D. Sturdevant
Elizabeth K. Joggerst	Caroline A. Vadala
Albert B. Kukol	Amanda L. Giannone
Jamye L. Lindsey	John R. Normile, Jr.
Kathryn Grant Madigan	Richard P. Ruswick
Michael R. May	
Karen J. McMullen	
Eugene E. Peckham	

Elder Care Coordinator

Maria R. Motsavage, RN, LNHA

Paralegals

Linda J. Eaton, Administration
Lynn M. Bowling
Sharon D. Ely
Cynthia A. Freita
Gail M. Henry
Carol O'Hara
Jill A. Peters
Karen J. Rockwell

Levene Gouldin & Thompson, LLP

450 Plaza Drive
Vestal, NY 13850
Phone: 607.763.9200
Fax: 607.763.9211

www.lgtlegal.com



Why A Will



LEVENE GOULDIN & THOMPSON, LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

450 Plaza Drive
Vestal, NY 13850
Telephone: 607.763.9200
Fax: 607.763.9211

www.LGTlegal.com

Branch offices in Deposit, Whitney Point
and Ithaca, NY and Montrose, PA

Attorney Advertisement

©Jan2017 Levene Gouldin & Thompson, LLP

Why a Will?



1. *Why Do I Need a Will?*

A Will lets you direct how your property is distributed when you die. Without a Will, your property will be distributed according to Estates, Powers and Trusts Law. This law may or may not reflect your wishes.

2. *What Property Passes Under the Terms of the Will?*

Any property you own individually (in your name alone) at the time of your death is part of your probate estate. It will go to whomever you direct in your Will.

3. *What Property Does Not Pass Under the Terms of the Will?*

Property owned "jointly" with another person, such as joint bank accounts, or accounts which are POD ("payable on death") or ITF ("in trust for") belong to that named person upon your death. Other property, like life insurance policies and retirement accounts, often have a named beneficiary who becomes the owner upon your death. Your Will will not trump, or control, this property at your death.

4. *What Are Some Other Considerations For My Will?*

In addition to naming who should receive your property upon your death, you should also consider who will be the executor of your Will, who will be the guardian of any minor children, trusts for minor children or spouse, supplemental needs trusts for disabled persons, as well as estate tax issues. Each beneficiary should have an alternate, or contingent beneficiary. Each executor, trustee or guardian should also have an alternate.

5. *Do I Still Need a Will if I Own All My Property "Jointly" With Another Person?*

Even then, you should have a Will because you never know if you may have property in the future which you own individually and pass under your Will. For example, the "joint" owner may predecease you. The executor you name in your Will may also bring any claims

you may have against others after your death, as in the case of wrongful death.

6. *What Happens Upon My Death?*

Upon your death, the executor named in your Will petitions Surrogate's Court to be officially appointed your executor. In New York, "probate" is the formal appointment of your executor and in many counties will take 3-4 days. Once appointed, the executor will secure your personal belongings and the rest of your individually owned property, pay your final bills, file estate and income tax returns, and if required account to your beneficiaries and distribute your property according to the terms of your Will.

For help with your Will

Call Us Today!

607.763.9200
