

Why do I need an attorney?

Wills

- They can tailor the Will to address your specific concerns and objectives
- Can include Trusts when needed for your beneficiaries
- Help identify viable executors or trustees
- Make sure the Will is executed properly
- Recommend Lifetime Trusts to avoid probate
- A 'Simple Will' that can be done correctly on your own is VERY rare

Power of Attorney

- Must be acknowledged in front of a notary public
- If the form fails to follow the "exact language" in the law, or is not executed properly, it will be void
- The Power of Attorney can be tailored as needed for you and your family
- An experienced attorney can also answer your questions, instruct your agent about their duties, provide advice about the powers to be granted and address concerns about safeguarding the Power of Attorney

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.

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Attorney Advertisement

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Personal. Powerful. Protection.

Why A Will & Power of Attorney



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

Why You Need A Will

1. Why do I need one?

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 & Trusts Law. This law may not reflect your wishes.

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

Any property you own individually (in your name alone) and which does not have a named beneficiary.

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

- Joint property will belong to the 'joint owner' upon your death.
- Named beneficiaries will own life insurance and retirement accounts.

4. Considerations for your Will

- **Who** - those you name in your Will
- **Executor** - the person who carries out terms of your will
 - **Guardian** - for any minor children
 - **Trusts** - for minor children, spouse or for disabled persons
- **Estate tax issues**

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

Yes! Even if you own all your property jointly you still should have a Will. You never know if you may have property in the future which you own individually and thus passes under your Will. For example, the "joint" owner may predecease you. An Executor can also sue someone for wrongful death on your behalf.

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 7-10 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, account to your beneficiaries and distribute your property according to the terms of your Will.

For more information or
help with your
Will & Power of Attorney

Call Us Today!
607.763.9200

Why You Need A Power of Attorney (POA)

1. What is a Power of Attorney (POA)?

A POA is a way to grant someone the authority to act on your behalf concerning property and financial matters, but not health care decisions (which are made by a **Health Care Proxy**). Once signed, you are known as the "principal", and the person you authorize to act on your behalf is called the "agent".

2. Considerations for your POA

- **The Agent** - someone who will act on your behalf, and who you know will always act in your best interest.
- **Benefits** - your agent can manage your finances during your lifetime and conduct your personal business if you are temporarily out of the area or are incapacitated due to injury or illness. If you lose the ability to manage your financial affairs and do not have a POA, the Court will appoint a guardian for you, is expensive and time consuming.
- **Risks** - your agent might not work in your best interests. There is recourse for this, and you are able to revoke the POA.
- **Get one ASAP!** Anyone over 18 years old shouldn't be without one.