

Wills

Wills can be confusing, but understanding the type your loved one has will make it easier to prepare and honor their wishes.



Simple Wills

A **simple will** is the **most common** type, often used for **straightforward situations**. It outlines how assets should be distributed and names beneficiaries. Simple wills work well for individuals with **uncomplicated estates** and **clear wishes**.

Living Wills

A **living will**, also known as an **advance directive** or **health care proxy**, focuses on **healthcare decisions** rather than assets. It outlines preferences for medical treatment if your loved one becomes unable to communicate.

Joint Wills

Joint wills are created by **two people**, typically spouses, to handle their **combined assets**. When one person passes away, **their portion automatically goes to the other**. While this can simplify estate planning, joint wills are **inflexible** and may not account for changing circumstances.

Testamentary Trust Will

A **testamentary trust will** creates a trust upon the individual's death, allowing assets to be distributed **over time** or **under specific conditions**. This type of will is ideal for providing ongoing financial support for dependents with special needs.

Other Types of Wills

- A **pour-over will** moves all assets into a trust after death, ensuring everything is managed and accounted for in one place.
- A **holographic will** is handwritten without witnesses or legal representation, making it harder to validate in probate court.
- An **oral will** consists of spoken instructions for handling assets, but validity depends on state laws and specific circumstances, such as imminent death.