

Six Important Reasons Why You Need a Will

1. A Will enables you to determine the distribution of your assets. Without a Will, state law determines what becomes of your assets. Each state has guidelines for distributing property that must be followed regardless of special circumstances. For example, some states provide that the surviving spouse receives just one-half, sometimes as little as one-third of the estate. A Will enables you to specifically state how you wish to continue providing for your family.

2. A Will enables you to name key participants. Without a Will, the court will name an administrator for your estate. The administrator may not be who you would have chosen for this important function. However, with a Will, you can name a particular individual or financial institution as personal representative of your estate. If you have minor children, you certainly want a voice in naming their guardians. You can do that with a Will.

3. A Will enables you to help your favorite charitable organizations. Your support means a great deal to us. A bequest in your Will allows you to continue that support. A bequest can be a fixed percentage of your estate, a specific dollar amount, or it can state that Home Missions receive the residue of the estate after provisions for all other beneficiaries have been made.

4. A Will can save you money. A well-drafted Will can help you eliminate any unnecessary expenses in settling your estate. For example, by providing a clause in your Will, you can free your heirs from certain costs, such as a bond fee and other administrative charges. In addition, a bequest to Home Missions will be exempt from any federal estate, state inheritance or death taxes.

5. A Will enables you to establish a Trust to provide income for another person. By creating a Testamentary Trust, you are able to provide income for someone who may not be capable of managing a large sum of money. Income from this type of Trust can support someone for life and the remainder of the Trust can be distributed after that person's life. The remainder could benefit children, grandchildren or a ministry such as ours.

6. A Will gives you flexibility to adjust your wishes as changes occur. Family circumstances change ... for example; you may have additional children or grandchildren. Or, you may have recently acquired assets such as real estate or securities which need to be included in the assets you are distributing in your Will. These are just a few of the possible changes that can affect the distribution of your assets as outlined in your Will. Any changes concerning distribution of your assets can be handled through a codicil to your Will.

This is general information and is not intended to be tax or legal advice. Please consult your own advisors.



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FOUNDATION



**Christian Reformed
Home Missions**

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Following Christ. In Mission Together.

I am interested in help developing or updating my Will.

I am interested in a confidential, no-obligation, estate plan review.

Name _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Reply with the enclosed envelope or call us at 800-266-2175.

Christian Reformed Home Missions is a member of Barnabas Foundation. The Foundation's goal is to help caring Christians make tax-wise decisions and strengthen support for ministries close to their hearts.