



How we can help you with your will and executor needs

Will Preparation / Executor Services / Trusts / Financial Services / Taxation Services / Genealogical Services
Investment Services / Enduring Power of Attorney / Personal Financial Solutions







At State Trustees we understand when it comes to trusting someone with your personal and financial affairs you need to know you're getting professional and expert advice with your interests at heart. We've been helping Victorians with their financial needs for over 70 years so they can make the most of their opportunities. At State Trustees, we provide our expert financial and legal assistance to all Victorians regardless of income, age or personal circumstances. We're well known as specialists in preparing Wills and we offer a diverse range of professional services including deceased estate administration, Trustee, Executor and Attorney services along with astute financial advice and management to help protect and grow your assets.



Why is a Will so important?

Your Will is an important legal document. It helps ensure the right people are provided for when you pass away. Making sure your Will is up-to-date and legally sound is the best way to help ensure your assets are protected and your wishes carried out.

What if you die without a Will?

If you don't have a Will your assets will be distributed amongst your closest relations, according to a fixed legal formula. It won't necessarily be the way you intended. Your close family members might end up with less than you intended. Your assets could even go to someone you didn't plan to leave anything to.

Experts in protecting your estate

At State Trustees we are experts in Will preparation. For over 70 years we have been helping Victorians tailor their Wills to their lives. This gives you the peace of mind that your final wishes are expressed clearly and in a legally robust way. We also offer secure storage of your Will, at no cost to you, so your family or Executor can find it easily when needed.



My Story

“My son and I haven't spoken for years. How can I make sure he doesn't receive an equal share of my estate when I die?”

Joan is a widow with three adult children, but one of her sons has not been in contact with the family for many years. Although Joan only wants her estate to be divided between the two children she sees regularly, she has not yet made a Will to ensure this happens.

In accordance with Victorian legislation, if Joan dies without a Will, all three children will receive an equal share of her estate. This means that her estranged son will have the right to demand his share, going against her original intentions and reducing the amount intended for her other two children.*

“I don't own that much. I don't need to update my Will again, do I?”

Sarah listed her jewellery and specific sums of money as gifts in her Will for her favourite charities, however, she did not have a clause dealing with the rest of her estate. She assumed this was acceptable because she did not have a lot of money when she made her Will.

Before she died, Sarah inherited a substantial sum of money and did not amend her Will to reflect this. When she passed away this money was distributed according to the intestacy laws and was given to her estranged family.*

Helping you plan with expert advice

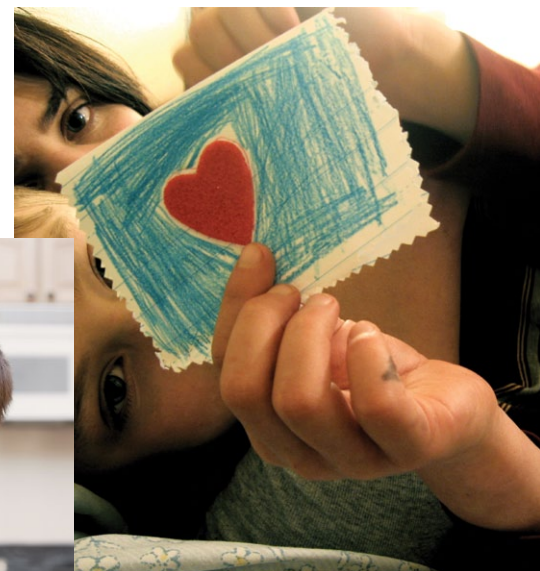
When you're ready to write your Will or update your existing Will, there are some important things for you to consider. We are here to help you with impartial and expert advice.

- Who do you want to leave your assets to?
- Are there specific items or gifts of money you would like to leave to particular people?
- How would you like to divide everything else up?
- Is there anyone you are leaving out of your Will that you have provided for in the past?
- Do you have any specific instructions for your funeral?
- Who would you like to be the guardians of your children?
- Do you want to set up Trusts for things like future grandchildren's education?
- If you have a business, what happens to it?
- Are your partner and children going to be financially secure in the future?
- Are there charities you would like to donate to?
- Who do you want to be Executor of your Will?

It is surprising how complex all this can be. Especially trying to anticipate the needs of your family and the possible disputes that may arise. That's where we come in. At State Trustees we are experts in preparing Wills and can help you plan and make sound choices.

Keeping your Will up-to-date

Families constantly change. There are marriages, separations, births and deaths. It is important to make sure your Will is updated to reflect the changes in your family, and your wishes. We can help you review your Will so it reflects your current circumstances and avoids leaving part of your estate to unintended beneficiaries.



Choosing the right Executor

One of the most important decisions to make when considering your Will is who to appoint as your Executor. This person or organisation will be responsible for managing your estate after you die and distributing your assets according to your wishes. It can be stressful and daunting, especially if they are grieving, so you need to be very careful about who you ask.

Naturally, many people ask a family member. You need to be aware that what seems like an honour can prove to be very onerous and could expose them to legal action should someone disagree with the decisions made.

Even the most straightforward of estates can be very time-consuming for your Executor. Here are some questions you should consider when choosing your Executor, based on our 70 years experience looking after the estates of Victorians.

The challenges for your Executor

Probate	will your Executor understand the legal complexities of Probate?
Assets and liabilities	will your Executor be able to identify all your assets, liabilities, debtors and creditors?
Tax	does your Executor have the time and expertise to prepare and lodge tax returns on behalf of your estate?
Asset management	does your Executor have the financial skills to manage your investments and assets during the administration of your estate?
Pets and animals	can your Executor care for, or re-locate, your animals?
Locating beneficiaries	will your Executor have the time and resources to track down all your beneficiaries?
Dispute resolution and mediation	will your Executor know how to handle disputes between beneficiaries?
Legal claims	is your Executor prepared to accept responsibility for their decisions and go to court to defend your estate?
Sales and transfers	does your Executor know how to sell and transfer your estate's properties and businesses?
Distribution	will your Executor know how to distribute the proceeds of your estate properly?
Trusts	does your Executor have the expertise and time to administer ongoing Trusts?

At State Trustees we administer more deceased estates than any other organisation in Victoria. Which is why many individuals entrust us to act as their Executor to finalise their affairs, with impartiality and professionalism.

What to look for in an Executor

Ideally your Executor will have relevant business, financial or legal experience, especially if you plan to set up a Trust, your Will is challenged, or missing beneficiaries need to be located. They can ask a local solicitor for advice but ultimately they are still responsible and liable for making decisions.

That's why State Trustees offer Executor Services. We can take care of everything for you, acting as an impartial Executor with in-house financial and legal expertise. We can make things easier for your family at a difficult time. And you can rest assured that your wishes will be carried out without burdening a loved one.

Looking after your best interests

At State Trustees we are experienced professionals who have only the interests of you and your beneficiaries in mind. We make sure your Will is properly prepared and executed, to give you the peace of mind that your wishes will be understood and that any challenges to your Will are less likely to succeed. Do-it-yourself Wills may seem convenient but they don't come with the necessary advice to make sure you understand the implications of your instructions. Our tailored Wills can also make things simpler for your family and Executor in the future when Probate of your Will is obtained.

Questions?

For more information on Wills and Executor Services call State Trustees

03 9667 6466

Residents outside the Melbourne metropolitan area can call

1300 138 672

or visit

www.statetrustees.com.au



My Story

“I couldn't believe it when my son's ex-wife made a claim against my husband's estate. I didn't know what to do.”

Mary, a 79-year old pensioner, was Executor of her late husband's estate. She was physically fit and mentally alert, and expected her role to be straightforward. What she couldn't have foreseen was that the estranged wife of her son would make a claim against the estate...*

“As much as I wanted to help out by being Executor, it was so time-consuming it wasn't fair on my kids.”

Frank, a 48 year-old father of three, was appointed Executor of his elderly mother's estate. With a demanding career and family of his own, he could not find time to manage his mother's assets and prepare financial statements.

Additionally, Frank's disabled sister, a primary beneficiary, was beneficiary under a lifetime Trust which Frank was required to administer on an ongoing basis...*

*The case studies, while fictional, are based on real client experiences. Names and identities of persons and facts have been changed in order to protect confidentiality. Any similarity between a person's name and experiences to the scenario described in the case study is unintended and coincidental.



03 9667 6466

Residents outside the Melbourne metropolitan area can call

1300 138 672

or visit

www.statetrustees.com.au



State Trustees Limited

ABN 68 064 593 148

AFSL N^o 238037

(Wills broch_web0610 • STP014N)

Melbourne

168 Exhibition St
Melbourne,
Victoria, 3000

Glen Waverley

Suite 22, Level 2
40 Montclair Ave
Glen Waverley,
Victoria, 3150

Dandenong

Shop 4, 157 Lonsdale St
(corner of Foster St)
Dandenong,
Victoria, 3175

Bendigo

74 Pall Mall
Bendigo
Victoria, 3550