



Home made wills are risky

The do-it yourself trend and the internet have made writing your own will seem like an easy way to get your affairs in order but here's why you should choose a qualified lawyer to prepare your will no matter how straightforward you think your affairs are:

1. **Your affairs are more complex than you think.** Drafting a will can be complicated, no matter the size of the estate. Nearly all of us have superannuation but this isn't automatically dealt with in a will.
2. **Your words can be misconstrued.** Using your own words rather than legal terminology might create ambiguity.
3. **You can have more control over who you exclude.** If you decide to omit someone from your will, it might not be as simple as making a statement in the will regarding the person and reason. Such statements might make the person more likely to challenge.
4. **More control over your wishes.** Allegations of duress or mental incapacity in relation to you after you die will generally be more difficult to rebut if a qualified lawyer has not been engaged in the will making process.
5. **Signing and witnessing a will must be done correctly.** There is specific legislation in relation to the signing and witnessing of wills. This is commonly done incorrectly in many home-made wills.
6. **You'll receive advice on who is the best choice to be appointed executor.** Receiving advice in relation to the role of the executor of your will is important. What if they passed away first?
7. **Your beneficiaries may be better off.** A properly drafted will can create tax and asset protection advantages for beneficiaries.

Using a qualified lawyer to prepare your will and advise on estate planning is a small price to pay to protect your wealth and ensure your wishes are adhered to after you pass away.