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What is a will?



A will is a legal document that becomes effective upon a person's death. It contains instructions, to be applied after a person's death, for the payment of the person's debts and claims, the distribution of the deceased person's remaining assets, the designation of a guardian for the deceased person's minor children, if there is no surviving parent (subject to the court's approval), and the designation of an executor of the will. The will should provide answers to at least three basic questions: "Who gets what?", "How and when do they get it?", and "Who's in charge?"

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