

WILLS

Drawing up a Simple Will

A will must be in writing and should contain the following:

- ♦ *That you revoke all previous wills.*
- ♦ *The names of your executors—the person/people who carry out the instructions in your will;*
- ♦ *The name of person/people who will receive the balance of your estate, after all bills are paid;*
- ♦ *The signatures of two witnesses, with all three of you present in the room at the same time. The witnesses need to record that they were there together and both saw you sign the will.*

You may also wish to add the following:

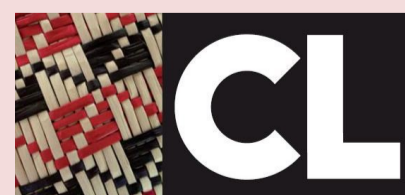
- ♦ *Your wishes for funeral arrangements;*
- ♦ *If you have children under 18 years – a person to be appointed guardian of the children*
- ♦ *Any special gifts to be given (eg jewellery or taonga) to a person you name;*
- ♦ *Gifts to charitable organisations;*
- ♦ *Donating your body to research;*

Obtain Legal Assistance for a Complicated Will.

It is advisable to have a lawyer assist you if you want to attach conditions to the way your property is handed on or if there is a likelihood that someone will challenge your will.

More complex arrangements may include:

- ♦ *When some or all of the beneficiaries of the will are minors;*
- ♦ *When you want to leave uneven shares to your children;*
- ♦ *When you want your partner to have a ‘life interest’ in your share of the family home;*
- ♦ *When you have a child with a disability who will be unable to manage his or her inheritance*
- ♦ *When you want to leave a substantial legacy to a non-family member, for example a carer who has looked after you.*



Community Law Marlborough