

Will it to be Done

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A group of friends were discussing what they wanted after their death. Most people do this feeling that their wishes will be met. I stated I had a donor card and they could have anything they needed as long as there was enough left for the casket. A woman in the group proceeded to tell us her husband had a donor card but she had not donated any of his organs. Giving her the benefit of the doubt I ask her why? She told us that she didn't want them touching her husband and she didn't care what he wanted.

Everyone hates the thought of making a will, most feel they have more time and their family knows what they want. This way of thinking is a myth. The hard truth is even if you're loved ones have been told what you would like; their feelings can get in the way of carrying your wishes out.

In another case, a woman was killed leaving no husband or children behind, the parents and sibling's left to care for matters. One of the parents was appointed personal representative to carry out all the affairs. The parents were left the Insurance money. The next step is to sue for wrongful death, which can only be brought about by the personal representative.

Does this mean that the individual that died wished that all their personal effects go to the parents or how about the wrongful death lawsuit moneys? The personal representative has any and all power over such things; which can result in harsh feelings. Greed, mistrust, unresolved issues and the stages of grief can get in the way of fairness and even break a family apart.

Being in sound mind and making a will is much kinder to the family then leaving it up to the lawyers which never knew you, your standards and beliefs. The reasons for doing so are:

- The welfare and guardianship of your children.
- Your assets can be managed properly and put to their best use.
- The legal process in dealing with your affairs will be easier, and professional hired does not end your significant beneficiary.
- You can name the beneficiaries (including charities and friends if you so wish) and you will know with certainty who will inherit from your efforts.
- Your estate may not have to pay an inheritance tax if you have will.

The death of a loved one is painful enough without all the hardships of sorting through an estate let alone a wrongful death lawsuit. Yes it does take a little time, but much less time, effort and or emotional turmoil are put into it than would be if it were left to chance.

There are free will building sites available such as: americawills.com Make sure you check your states laws and have it notarized. You should reevaluate your will every 5 years or so and your will can provide for children that will come along after your will has been established.

As always This is not legal advice, just the advice of a concerned USMWF Representative. Just a note: Living Will's allow an individual to make decisions about their health care in advance in case they are incapacitated and unable to do so.