

## August Is National Make-A-Will Month: Heres Why It Matters

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August 7, 2025

**Courtney Dolaway**

August is *National Make-A-Will Month*, a timely reminder for individuals and families to prioritize one of the most important and often overlooked aspects of long-term planning: creating a Last Will and Testament. While end-of-life decisions can be uncomfortable to think about, having a Will ensures your wishes are clearly outlined, your loved ones are protected, and your legacy is preserved.

Despite its importance, studies show that most American adults don't have a Will. A 2025 Caring.com survey discovered that more than 75% of Americans may not have a Will. Many people put it off, whether due to procrastination, uncertainty about the process, or the incorrect belief that incurring legal costs for something that is only relevant to the wealthy is not necessary. National Make-A-Will Month encourages everyone, regardless of age, income, or health, to take this critical step.

Here are three compelling reasons why creating a Will is essential:

### **1. It Protects Your Loved Ones**

With a Will, you get to control who inherits your assets, from financial accounts to real estate to personal effects. Without one, state laws determine how your estate is divided—a process that can be time-consuming, expensive, and may not reflect your intentions. In addition, if you have minor or disabled children, a Will is where you name guardians to care for them in the event of your passing. Without this, a court could appoint someone you wouldn't have chosen.

### **1. It Reduces Family Conflict**

Losing a loved one is difficult enough without adding uncertainty or disputes over inheritance. A clear, legally binding Will can minimize confusion and conflict by providing direct instructions of your intentions. It helps avoid misunderstandings and disagreements that can arise when there's no guidance, particularly in blended families or situations involving complex estates.

### **1. It Gives You Control Over Your Legacy**

Creating a Will allows you to leave meaningful gifts, donate to charities, or support causes you care about. It's a powerful way to ensure that your values and priorities live on. A Will also provides you the option to name an executor—someone you trust to carry out your wishes efficiently and in accordance with the law.

**An Act of Compassion**

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Making a Will is more than a legal chore; its a personal act of care for the people and causes you love. It removes the burden of your loved ones having to guess what you would have wanted while they are grieving. No matter the size of your estate, making a Will is a responsible and compassionate choice.

This National Make-A-Will Month, consider it a gift you give for the future one that speaks for you when you no longer can. To get started, contact Courtney Dolaway or any of Flaster Greenbergs trusts and estates attorneys today. They offer a responsive and reassuring presence during times that can be uncertain or overwhelming.

Your Will may be for the future, but the peace of mind from having one in place will be felt in the present.

#### **ATTORNEYS MENTIONED**

Courtney Dolaway