

DOODLE A WILL

You have \$1 million in your estate after debts and taxes. You and your spouse have two children who are both married, each with two children of your own. Both your children make you proud and your sets of grandkids are little angels. (If this is too perfect, use your real-life situation.)

Now ask yourself this question: How do I want my hypothetical million dollars distributed at my death?

Pose the question to yourself when you're eating alone or taking a relaxed coffee break. Pull out your pen and reach for a paper napkin. Start doodling. How much is enough for family? How much to charity? Any bequests to friends? Doodle away.

You can wad it up and toss it away afterward, but the little exercise will get your juices flowing ... and may help you get past any reticence you now have about doing an official will. It might also lead to a revision of a will you already have in place. Major decisions often start with a few marks on a paper napkin.

Doodling an informal will encourages you to think through family issues such as parental responsibility, individual needs, lifestyle choices, potential use and personal initiative. Doodling leads to the who, the why and the how much of wealth disbursement.

You may not have a million dollars or maybe you have 20 times that amount. Whatever the size of your estate, some of the issues will be the same. For example, will you leave it all to family? Will you include charitable bequests to your favorite charities? And if you leave charitable bequests, will your gifts establish a family-named endowment fund. Will you give a set amount or a percentage of your estate?

Who will you appoint as your personal representative to handle the probating of your estate? And, if you have minor children, who will be the guardians? What about trusts and trustees and contingency trustees?

Doodling opens up all sorts of interesting thoughts and questions. In fact, your casual doodling may lead to discussions with your spouse or family members. It may prompt a meeting with your attorney or other estate-planning advisor.

The Community Foundation for Carver County provides a service for existing nonprofits by enabling people with philanthropic interest to easily and effectively support the issues they care about. The Foundation was established to invest endowment funds to benefit local charities. This allows a charity to concentrate on their mission without having to expend time and energy on investment concerns.

Making a will is a serious and important matter. It may be the most important document you ever sign. In fact, it is so daunting for some that it never gets done. Perhaps a little doodling is a good idea.

The Foundation is offering a free **Guide to Making A Will**.
For your free no-obligation copy please call (952) 250-5138 or
Email info@carvercountyfoundation.org.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Learn more about the Foundation at
www.carvercountyfoundation.org.



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