

# When Should I Update my Will?

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A properly drafted last will and testament should be flexible enough that you do not have to change it very often. However estate and probate law changes fairly frequently and what made sense for your estate years ago may no longer be prudent. Life changing events can also impact your will.

## **Married and Having Children**

If you get married (or divorced) after a will has been drafted for you, you should have a new will drafted to reflect your new marital status. Spouses have rights to property by law and your will should be drafted to be in compliance with the law. If you have been recently divorced, you may be required by your divorce decree to include your ex-spouse in your will. On the other hand, you may need to remove your ex-spouse from your will altogether.

If you have children after your will is drafted, you should draft a new will to designate a guardian and perhaps establish a trust to provide for your children when you are gone.

## **Accumulating a Business or Real Estate**

If you start a business or purchase real estate, you should consider updating your will to make arrangements for the transfer or sale of your property. Your partnership agreement or the documents used to incorporate your business may require you to use particular language to properly transfer your share of ownership.

## **Get Legal Help**

A consultation with experienced California Estate Planning Attorney Shannon Howell will help you understand if now is the time to update your estate plan to fully protect your assets, your goals, and your loved ones. **Contact us today to discuss your individual planning needs at (619)-739-4657.**

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