

Consumer Reports Says Legal DIY Websites No Match for Professional Legal Advice

By: Hyatt and Weber

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A [September Consumer Reports magazine article](#) has reported on a study of three popular online legal DIY websites – Nolo, LegalZoom and Rocket Lawyer – and finds that these sites are no match for professional legal advice.

A Consumer Reports research team evaluated online services for creating a will, a home lease for a landlord and a seller's bill of sale for a car. The documents created on the online legal sites were then given to three law school professors to review for accuracy.

The final verdict? Using an online legal site may be better than doing it on your own or not having these documents at all, but consumers are far better served by consulting with a lawyer.

In reviewing the wills created by the sites, the legal experts found that it was difficult – sometimes impossible – to have a will tailored to more complex situations. One site didn't allow for a child's trust to extend past the age of 35, although there is no law prohibiting this. Another site allowed consumers to put anything they want into the special directives section, which could add clauses that contradict other parts of the will.

An experienced [Maryland estate planning attorney](#) can help you understand all your options for estate planning. Experienced Estate Planning Attorneys Linda T. Cox and Seth B. Zirkle can discuss all your options and create a plan with you. **Call Ms. Cox or Mr. Zirkle at Hyatt & Weber, P.A. today at 410-505-4553**