



# White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church



Courage • Reverence • Compassion



## Top 10 Reasons for UUs to Write a Will

When Prince died four years ago, the news that he had no will at the time of his death illustrated what happens when a person dies without having planned for the future.

Without a will, the state decides the disposition of the estate, with many months or even years of court proceedings likely.

What do you want for your relatives, your friends, your community and for your own legacy? Having a will, regardless of your age or financial circumstances, can meet many of your needs and provide direction on matters that are important to you.

Among the top ten reasons to have a will, consider the following.

- You decide how your estate will be distributed. This allows your expectations to be met and minimizes any friction in the family over your intentions.
- If you have minor children, you can provide for the person(s) you would want to raise your children.
- A will minimizes the time and expense of probate court proceedings.
- Taxes? If your estate is large enough, taxes will be a consideration that requires planning.
- A will allows you to decide who will manage the affairs of your estate. You can name someone now who is trustworthy and organized.
- Your intentions can be made clear. Without a will, your estate may end up in the hands of someone you did not consider.
- **The ability to make gifts in a will allows your legacy to live on and reflect your personal values and interests. For many UUs, this may be one of the most important reasons to have a will.**
- You can change your mind and change your will, too. A good reason for having a will is that you have organized and made thoughtful consideration of your intentions. As life changes, perhaps you will change as well. It is then less difficult to change a provision than it is to do nothing.
- Tomorrow is not promised. Death is a part of life, and it is wise to plan to fulfill your intentions.
- **We are a congregation of giving people. Writing a will is another way of expressing our confidence in generosity and establishing the legacy we would prefer.**