

## INSIGHTS + NEWS

## Katherine Dorval Discusses What Happens When Someone Dies Without a Valid Will

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A will is a legal document that details who will receive assets after someone dies. A will also names a personal representative to administer the estate. But what happens if you pass away without a will? [Katherine Dorval](#) addressed this question with *The Wall Street Journal*:

“If you don’t have a will, the intestacy laws will govern whatever passes through your estate,” says Katherine Dorval, a trust-and-estate attorney with Bowditch & Dewey in Worcester, Mass., referring to state laws that determine what happens when someone dies without a valid will. “You lose the opportunity to not only choose who is going to be in charge of your estate, but also how the assets will pass.”

Continue reading “[The Five Documents You Need to Have in Your Estate Plan](#)” on *The Wall Street Journal* website.