



DON'T TAX YOURSELF

A Publication of Bowditch & Dewey's Estate, Financial & Tax Planning Group

What Happens When Someone Dies Without a Valid Will

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Have you considered what will happen if you die without a will? What happens to your estate?

A will is an important legal document that details who will receive assets after someone dies and also names a personal representative to administer the estate.

“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.