



WILLS

Matter

WHERE THERE IS A WILL, THERE IS A WAY

No doubt you already appreciate how important it is that you make a Will which is tailored to your individual needs and circumstances. But perhaps you didn't realize some of the other things you can do in your Will, beyond simply naming a guardian, beneficiaries, and choosing an executor.

In your Will you may leave instructions about what is to happen with your remains upon your death. You may indicate your preferences as to cremation or burial, and even include details about the funeral service. Perhaps you desire a traditional Viking funeral ceremony, or an Irish wake?

If these instructions are contained in your Will, they are binding on your executors. Your executors must consider and carry out your instructions, so long as doing so does not cause undue hardship.

You may also want to provide guidance about what is to happen with your beloved pets after you are gone. Animals are treated as a form of personal property, just the same as your World War II relics and gardening tools. If you don't leave specific instructions in your Will, then your executors have the power to sell or dispose of your pets however they see fit, with the profits forming part of the residue of your estate.

You can, however, 'gift' your pets to certain beneficiaries in your Will. If you do this, and especially in the case of larger animals that are more expensive to care for, you may want to put aside some money that is earmarked for your pet's support and maintenance. This can be achieved by setting up a trust fund in your Will, and naming as Trustee the person to whom you give your pet.

If these or other unusual circumstances apply to you, talk to your Wills and Estates lawyer. He or she can advise you as to how your Will and estate plan can best accommodate your particular needs.*

Contact Fulton & Company's Wills & Estates Team

if you have any questions regarding wills or estate matters.

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