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“Here today, gone tomorrow” is a phrase that best describes our existence on earth. An up-to-date Will is the only means to ensure that your estate is distributed according to your wishes. A Will is a necessity for all persons, especially those with children under the age of 18 years.

If a person dies without leaving a Will, or if the Will is not valid for any reason, the beneficiaries will be determined according to the Law of Intestate Succession.

People need to realise that there may be practical difficulties concerning the division of assets. Where you may have chosen to leave everything to your spouse by means of a Will, intestate succession could determine that the assets should be split among your spouse and children.

If you live with someone but aren't married to that person, the law will not recognise your 'common-law-spouse' as the beneficiary of your estate if you haven't left a Will naming them as beneficiary.

It is not a wise decision to draft your own Will, rather make use of the services of a professional. A Will must meet certain legal requirements for it to be valid. Wills drafted by those with little or no experience usually lead to problems.

When drafting your Will, and appointing you Executor, negotiate the Executor's fee and have it recorded in your Will. This will save your loved one's trouble and further heartache.

Remember: when a Will "speaks", the person who made it is no longer there!