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10 Myths Surrounding Wills & Probate

Misconceptions about estate plans can lead to unnecessary stress, delays, and expenses for your loved ones, sometimes at the most critical moments.

This guide exposes the 10 most common myths surrounding wills and probate and gives you the facts you need to protect your family, your assets, and your peace of mind.





Myth 1: I'm too young for an estate plan.

Estate planning isn't just for retirees. From wills to healthcare documents, it protects you and your loved ones at any age, especially if you have children.

Myth 2. I don't have enough assets for an estate plan.

Estate planning is for everyone. Even modest estates benefit from clear instructions and guidance, avoiding probate and guardianship complications.

Myth 3. Estate planning is only about distributing assets.

It's also about relationships, healthcare decisions, and protecting dependents, giving your family peace of mind.

Myth 4. Probate costs the same as creating a will.

Probate can be expensive, slow, and public, often costing far more than setting up your will in the first place.

Myth 5. I have a will; probate isn't needed.

Even with a will, probate is required to validate it and transfer assets legally.

Myth 6. Probate takes years.

Most estates are settled in months. Delays usually come from disputes or complex assets, but strong legal guidance keep can speed up the process.

Myth 7. If I die, my spouse automatically inherits everything.

Spouses typically inherit a large portion of your estate, but only an estate plan guarantees your assets go exactly where you want.



Myth 8. The oldest child must be executor.

You choose your executor. Courts follow your instructions unless the named person is disqualified.

Myth 9. Joint bank accounts replace a durable power of attorney.

Joint access isn't the same as legal authority. A durable power of attorney ensures someone you trust can manage finances responsibly.

Myth 10. No one contests the will, so I don't need a lawyer.

Even uncontested estates require legal steps. An experienced probate attorney helps you meet deadlines, handle debts, and avoid errors.

Protect Your Family with a Strong Estate Plan

A well-crafted estate plan does more than distribute assets, it safeguards your loved ones, designates decision-makers for healthcare and finances, and helps avoid costly probate delays.

Our experienced team will guide you every step of the way, answer your questions, and create a plan tailored to your needs. Contact Ball Morse Lowe today to secure your family's future and gain peace of mind.

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