

Last Will and Testament

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I have recently been hearing a lot about people visiting their attorneys to obtain a Last Will and Testament. These people are simply not sure of our current times, and want to take the appropriate actions in order to protect their families. As I ventured to a few of the survival blogs, and previewed the postings that people were making, I was totally surprised at what I found. As an example, one man says he will leave all his personal belongings to his youngest son, while in the next frame we see a young lady shouting, "What about me, me, me your daughter? You forgot to include me in your will."

Another person states that she was planning to leave everything, but her jewelry, and a few personal items to her children. She goes on to explain that if both she and her husband both go at the same time, everything will go to her three children, with the bulk of it going to her two youngest kids simply because the oldest child and his wife have good jobs therefore, they can afford to purchase whatever they so desire. I find this explanation to be a crock of bull. This exact situation has happened within my wife's family. Just because someone works hard should not be reason to leave them out of a will, or to reframe from giving them personal mementos of their family. The lady in question ends her rant with claiming that if you want peace of mind over your possessions then you should make out a will, and appoint someone to oversee your desires for your belongings.

Let's take a moment to discuss wills and lawyers. If you have no trustworthy person involved with your final requests you may wonder what will happen to your possessions? Will whoever is assigned to handle your estate take the "Lion's share" of your assets as they completely disregard your desires? Would your items be donated to some charity, even though that was not in your will? How would your property be disposed of? You have an attorney to handle your final arrangements, and the disposition of your property so you may feel confident that your plans will be carried out as you have directed.

Don't feel too confident in this respect as lawyers cannot always be trusted, after all you won't be there to object to what they are doing. Often times a lawyer may not have the disposition to do the honest thing. Many make "big time" money from the deaths of their clients. I know this to be a fact. In addition, many people are of the opinion that once

they are dead the family can do whatever they want with their estate. This also is a very bad attitude to have.

My wife and I have talked at length on this issue and we have decided that we will let our three sons and their wives select the items which they would like to have upon our death. The rest of our items, of what we view of value, will be placed in a yard sale. Those few dollars could do better in our pockets than to be tossed in the trash upon our demise. What we eventually do not sell at the garage sale will be donated to the local Salvation Army store. Our clothing which we no longer need will be given to one of the local churches in support of their homeless clothing drives.

It is often more difficult for my wife to part with items than it is for me. As an example, she got tired of cleaning "knick knacks" and proceeded to lay them out on the dining room table. She then packed up those items she wanted to save and placed those to be donated in a cardboard box. When I arrived home from work I was greeted at the door and led to the table. She next asked me to look carefully at the items sitting upon the table and decide for myself those "past treasures" which I was so attached to that I could not bring myself to part with. I quickly glanced around the table, from left to right and non-chantey replied, "No Pam, it's your stuff, so you do what you want with it." Without hesitation she responded with, "Some of it is yours from years ago". Again, I replied, "Okay, well do as you wish with it." Eventually the items were packed into the donate box and disposed of.

Being preppers by nature, my wife and I try to plan accordingly for a worst-case scenario. We store up on survival supplies and especially on emergency foods. Our national current events are such that we cannot feel comfortable with the status of our economy or in some cases with the government itself. Although we may try to keep informed of the latest happenings relating to prepping, we often find things just move too fast for us to keep up.

Years ago, Pam and I began storing up on foods. The rationale for this is as follows. If I purchase canned vegetables at 3 cans for \$1.00 (this was years ago but not anymore) I will eventually save money. With the cost rise in food perhaps I can now buy canned vegetables at 2 for a dollar if I am lucky. Doing some simple math, we find that if I spend \$100.00 for food cans years ago at the rate of 3 for a dollar that would amount to 300 cans of food. Now today that same amount of money would provide only 200 cans of food (2 for \$1.00). That extra 100 cans of food amounts to a current price of \$50.00. Now if I had placed that same \$100.00 in the bank receiving an interest rate of perhaps 2.5 percent (this would be a good bank rate) it would make me a total of \$2.50 per year. I make more money when I purchased canned foods. With this in mind the going joke in the family is that my children will receive food as their inheritance. When viewed in light of the figures above this seems like a very good deal for them.