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## Overview - Wills & Succession

### **Inheritance Law**

What happens to your property when you die? How is your estate distributed if you don't leave a Will?

Many long-lasting family disputes arise over the distribution of a deceased person's estate. Siblings fall out... sometimes for decades, surviving spouses find themselves dependent on others, unable to make important decisions... like the downsizing of the family home.

A few hours consultation with a lawyer can save years of inter-family feuding, filial misunderstandings, and unfair asset distribution. Making a Will also greatly reduces bureaucracy and costs - allowing beneficiaries to receive more of your assets, in much less time than it takes where no Will exists.

It's a common misconception that those with small families don't need to make a Will. Without a will, a surviving spouse may find himself/herself dependent on the agreement of children if he/she wants to sell the family home. Such complications can be avoided by preparing a short and inexpensive will.

### **Testate and Intestate Succession**

A person can die without leaving a Will (Intestate Succession), or with a Will (Testate Succession). For an explanation of each, please see the sections "Testate Succession" and "Intestate Succession".

Where a person dies leaving a Will, a Probate Order - tzav kiyum tzavah צו קיום צוואה - is issued.

Where a person dies without a Will, a Succession Order - tzav yerusha צו ירושה - is issued.

### **Executors**

It is the exception, in Israel, rather than the rule, that an Executor is appointed to wind up an estate. In most cases, no executor is appointed, and the heirs - equipped with the appropriate court order - gather the estate assets themselves.

### **International Element**

It is very common in Israel for people to pass on leaving assets in more than one country. See the section "International Elements of Inheritance" for an explanation.

### **The New Field of Digital Assets**

Digital Assets is a new, often unclear, field that's becoming increasingly important as our digital lives expand. With most of us having photos, social media content, computer files, copyright material, and even money on-line, special arrangements must be made to ensure this material is not lost forever. This area affects young people as well as old. Please see the section "What are Digital Assets" for more information.

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