



## Where there's a "Will" there's a way **Wills for Women with "Womomentum"**

As we celebrate women, we turn our focus not only to their accomplishments or their success, but also to the journeys women have and will endure as their roles and responsibilities within society continues to evolve. The role that women play is multifaceted. Statistics show that more than a third of South African households are headed by women and that women spend almost three times more time on unpaid domestic work in comparison to their male counterparts. This proves that the role a woman plays in the average household is invaluable. That is why it is imperative that their financial literacy be exemplified through having an executable will, ensuring their efforts do not go wasted or unnoticed.

**Apart from the more general reasons for having an executable will, here are the top concepts women around the country should consider when drafting a will:**

1. Leaving an executable will allows for freedom of testation which enables one to freely express their last wishes, especially with regards to that which is held dearest to them.
2. Understanding your marital regime and how it impacts your freedom of testation and estate planning needs is vital when it comes to the drafting of one's Last Will.
3. Protect the interests/inheritance of children and special needs persons through the provision of a testamentary trust and prepare and save adequately for these potential expenses.

4. Decide who to nominate as the guardian responsible to care for children and ensure adequate financial provisions have been made for their benefit. It is important to note that a guardian nominated in the will is not ensured of guardianship. This nomination is rather an indication of the deceased's wishes by which the High Court, being the guardian of all minor children will be guided in making its decision.
5. Nominate a competent executor to ensure one's wishes are carried out thoroughly and without unnecessary cost or delay as well as a trustee/s to assist with any testamentary trust created for beneficiaries.
6. Be mindful of the impact a divorce or maintenance order may have on the execution of one's wishes.
7. Care and provide for those who are financially dependent on you even after you have passed on.
8. Create and preserve wealth through different estate planning tools, products and vehicles available.
9. A living will which stipulates one's desires regarding future medical treatment/cessation thereof in circumstances in which one is no longer able to express informed consent.

The thought of discussing one's will can be unpleasant but not as devastating as avoiding or not having the conversation at all. In 2019, the Master of the High Court confirmed that as many as 75% of South Africans pass away without a valid will. According to Jeffrey Wiseman CEO of Momentum Trust, this is a national tragedy and can mostly be attributed to the perceived lack of accessibility when it comes to obtaining a legally binding will. In an effort to change this narrative, Momentum Trust offers various options to you, the adviser and your clients to allow for the drafting of free wills. One such option is an innovative and market leading offering made available through Momentum Trust having partnered with world-leading will software provider Arken.legal to offer an online will generation service to all South Africans for free. Momentum's new platform works similarly to an interview session and asks the user a series of questions related to their estate and final wishes.

Once completed a perfectly formatted, high quality will is ready for download and print. All the user has to do is to review the document and sign it in the presence of two independent witnesses who are at least 14 years old and able to testify in court, which will make it legally binding. This is particularly useful if the client is far away and would like to self-fulfill. Once the will has been completed, Momentum Trust can be notified by email to link the will to your adviser code. This incredibly user-friendly system can be accessed on the Momentum website or by clicking [here](#).

Make sure your client's legacy is protected, have the conversation, it's easier than you think and definitely worth it.

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