

WHY MAKE A WILL

Who should Make a Will?

If you are of sound mind and over the age of majority (usually 18 or 19), you should make a will.

What is a Will?

A will is a written document which sets out what you want to do with your assets when you die. This document speaks for you and replaces the rules for distributing property if there is no will. It describes:

- who you want to carry out your plan for your estate when you die (your executor)
- who you want to benefit from the Will (your heirs and beneficiaries)
- how you want your debts to be paid (e.g. funeral expenses, loans, credit cards)
- how you want your estate to be distributed amongst your heirs or beneficiaries once your debts are paid

Your executor will carry out your wishes.

What makes a Will Valid?

Certain legal requirements must be satisfied. In cases of band members residing on reserve, your Will must: be a written statement, be signed by you, and state your wishes with respect to disposing of your property after your death.

When preparing for a Will make a list of your possessions include: personal items such as savings certificates, jewelry, property, vehicles etc...Make a list designating the person or persons you wish to receive each particular item.

Should there be Witnesses?

Yes. There should be at least two witnesses and adults who are not mentioned in the will. You and the witnesses must sign at the end of the Will in each others' presence.

Choosing an Executor?

An executor is a person you choose to look after your estate. Their job is to make sure your instructions are carried out. This person can be a family member or friend.

Your executor should:

- be someone you trust
- respect your heirs
- be willing to do the job.

If you have any concerns or are interested in making a Will please contact the Lands department at 753-2922

