



Wills

Course Description

The Wills course explains in depth the device that allows people to transfer assets after death; an exception to the general rule that gifts can only be given by living people. The course covers what a will is, how it is drafted and executed, its most common provisions, and the roles of the people administering the will and estate.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Define the term, “will” and explain its role in distributing property to its beneficiaries
- Determine whether a will has been validly drafted and executed based on the circumstances
- Explain the various types of provisions by which wills dispose of assets
- Discuss the roles of the fiduciaries that are appointed under a will
- Discuss the tax features inherent in many wills
- Describe various types of common testamentary trusts

Final Exam

Grades and credit recommendations are based solely on a final exam. When students are ready to take the final exam, they should register for a LawShelf account (or simply log in, for those with existing accounts). Go to the video-course page and click “Take the Final Exam” and pay the exam fee, where applicable. Students will be given instructions on how to take the exam. All exams are proctored by the Voice Proctor® proctoring system. An overview of the system is [provided here](#) and it requires no training or learning curve. Grades of 70% or above are considered passing grades and qualify for recommended transfer credit.

The final exam is based on the video course modules. Additional resources detailed in this syllabus are helpful for background and for building greater understanding of the course materials.

Inquiries can be made through the LawShelf Contact form on our website by clicking the “email us” button that appears at the bottom of most LawShelf pages. Transcripts can be ordered via Parchment, as detailed on our website.

Case Studies

Many LawShelf video courses include case studies. These do not necessarily teach new material but are meant to demonstrate how the materials covered in the course are applied by various courts. Concepts covered in the case studies are covered on the final exam; so watching the case studies is necessary before taking the exam. However, it is unnecessary to memorize the facts and details of the cases covered in these case studies.

Self-Quizzes

Video-course modules and case studies feature self-quizzes that consist of practice questions on the materials covered in the videos. These questions are presented for the benefit of the student and are **important to review before taking the final exam** because they are similar in style and substance to the questions on the final exam. These quizzes are not graded or monitored and there is no record of how students answer these questions. Students may answer these questions as many times as they like and are encouraged to keep re-taking the quizzes until they have mastered all the questions.

Study Guide

Introductory Videos

These videos provide background to help students better understand the main parts of the course, which are the video-course modules below.

Last Wills and Testaments: Common Will Provisions and Their Purposes

<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/last-wills-and-testaments-common-will-provisions-and-their-purpsoses/>

Executing and Revoking a Last Will and Testament

<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/executing-and-revoking-a-last-will-and-testament/>

Elder Law and Estate Planning: The Rules of Intestacy

<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/rules-of-intestacy/>

Courseware Readings

These courseware readings provide background to help students better understand the main parts of the course, which are the video-course modules below.

The following sections of “Foundations of Law” courseware:

<https://lawshelf.com/coursewareview>

The following chapters under Wills Trusts & Estates (including all subchapters):

- Execution, Validity and Components of Wills
- Construction of Wills

Video Course Modules

These videos constitute the main part of the course and are they sources of the questions on the final exam.

Wills Overview

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursescontentview/wills>

Wills and Provisions - Module 1 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/wills-and-provisions-module-1-of-5>

Requirements for a Valid Will - Module 2 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/requirements-for-a-valid-will-module-2-of-5>

Transfer of Property by Will - Module 3 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/transfer-of-property-by-will-module-3-of-5>

Fiduciaries - Module 4 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/fiduciaries-module-4-of-5>

Creditors, Testamentary Trusts, and Tax Issues - Module 5 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/creditors-testamentary-trusts-and-tax-issues-module-5-of-5>

Case Study: Statton v. Wells Fargo Bank

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/case-study-stanton-v-wells-fargo-bank>

Supplemental Suggested Readings

These materials enable students to achieve a deeper understanding of the course materials and in applying the course to real-life situations.

Gifford, Will of No Will? The Effect of Fraud and Undue Influence on Testamentary Instruments

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/1111266>

Rodriguez-Dod, I'm Not Quite Dead Yet: Rethinking Anti-Lapse Redistribution of a Dead Beneficiary's Gift.

https://collections.law.fiu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?&httpsredir=1&article=1134&context=faculty_publications