

## **Why is having a Will so important?**

Did you know that more than half of all Americans will die without a Will? A well-prepared Will is one of the best gifts you can give to your family. A Will provides instruction for the distribution of your estate assets after your death. If you pass without a Will, the Laws of Intestate Succession of South Carolina will determine what happens to your assets when you die. These laws often will not distribute your assets in the way that you desire; therefore failing to prepare a Will can hurt your loved ones and keep you from being able to direct what happens to your possessions when you die.

## **What Can My Will Accomplish?**

Did you know that Abraham Lincoln, who was an attorney, died without a Will? At age 54, he still had not prepared a Will. Many people believe that if a married person dies without a Will, their spouse will inherit all of their assets. This is not the case in South Carolina. The Laws of Intestate Succession dictate that the surviving spouse will receive one-half and the children of the deceased will split the remaining one-half. This is especially troubling if the children are minors, and if the children are from different marriages/relationships. Things can get sticky, very quickly. Your Will should provide a road map for the distribution of assets upon your death, and this is not something that should be left to chance.

If you do not have a Will, now is the time to sit down with an experienced attorney to create one. Once your Will has been drafted, you will want to review and revise it if life events or changes create the need for an update. Kathleen M. Ferri would like to help you to ensure that you, your assets, and your loved ones are protected. Contact Kathleen by calling **843-577-9775** today to schedule your consultation or send her an email!