

DO IT YOURSELF WILL KITS

Trap

Olive is 60 years old, unmarried, and has no children but she does have a couple of nephews who she loves dearly. She volunteers at a pet rescue organization, and lives in Century Village on her pension which ends at death. Over the years she has acquired a modest life insurance policy, some personal household items, clothing, and she has 2 savings accounts. One night while watching the television, she saw an advertisement for a Do-It-Yourself Will Kit. Olive would like to ensure that her nephews and the pet rescue benefit upon her passing, and wants to take care of this before anything happens to her. The kits cost between \$30.00 and \$100.00. How should she choose?

Tips

- The Do-It-Yourself Will kits and form packages offer a variety of options, including subscription services, storing documents on a server, or downloading the forms at a minimal cost.
- Most Do-It-Yourself kits include a disclaimer advising that they are not providing legal advice and counsel. Most disclaimers indicate that the company is not responsible for any consequential or punitive damages that arise from the use of their product. Keep this in mind when making your decision.
- Estate planning needs vary from individual to individual. While these packages may give you a place to start, you may also wish to review the document with a legal professional to ensure that the final product will be accepted in your state.
- A debilitating disease or injury may rob you of the ability to make health care decisions. Florida has advance health care tools such as living wills and health care surrogate designation forms which designate a decision maker. Information and forms can be found free of cost at the Florida Bar www.flabar.org, AARP www.aarp.org, FL Dept. of Elder Affairs <http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us>, and the FL Dept. of Health www.doh.state.fl.us.

**For more information, call Palm Beach County Consumer Affairs at:
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