

WILLS

The following message is for:

1. Northwest Alaska Natives, except Kotzebue & Selawik, who own Restricted Native Allotment or Restricted Townsite lots and are at least 18 years of age.
2. Northwest Alaska Natives, except Kotzebue & Selawik, who have inherited an interest in Restricted Native Allotments or Restricted Townsite lots and are at least 18 years of age.

It is important for you to prepare a Last Will and Testament. It is possible that your Restricted Native Allotment and/or Restricted Townsite lot, may be inherited by others not of your choosing.

A Will helps you do the right thing for yourself and the people you care about. It may help prevent arguments between your children or relatives after you pass away. Writing your Will **now** may provide peace of mind in the future.

REMEMBER: Promises which you have express during your lifetime have no legal effects. In order to have your wishes carried out, it must be written down in a Will and be executed by a notary.

If you pass away **without a Will**, Alaska State Law determines who will receive your properties. These laws may include:

1. Leave your property to people you would not want to inherit.
2. Leave your property to people in different amounts of interest than you would have chosen.
3. Result in your property being taken out of trust or restricted status - for example, if your property passes on to a non-native spouse.

If you pass away **with a Will**, you can decide for yourself:

1. Who get your property
2. Who get your property in what amounts of interest

It is particularly important to reduce fractionation of your restricted property. "**Fractionation**" results when a person dies without a Will and has many heirs or when a person leaves property to a number of people in a Will. When a large number of people own small undivided interests in a piece of property, management and use of the property are extremely difficult, and may result in an argument between the heirs.