



3ID Legal Assistance Office Newsletter Volume 3, April 2024

“SOLDIER FIRST, LAWYER ALWAYS”



- Welcome back to the latest volume of the 3ID Legal Assistance Newsletter! This edition of the Legal Assistance Newsletter will focus on estate planning.

Estate Planning and SRP

- A Will is a legal declaration of your wishes regarding the disposal of your property after your death. First thing to know about a Will is not everyone needs a Will (probate). Generally, if you have no dependents, do not own any significant assets like a home, and are comfortable with your property passing to your closest living relatives you probably do not need a will. If you are not sure, you can be screened for a Will by the paralegals in our office or your brigade legal shop.
- Second important thing to know regarding Wills, is that not all of your property can be disposed of through a Will. These assets are often referred to as non-probate assets. The most important of which for Soldiers is Servicemember' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) or the life insurance that all of us have through our service in the military. SGLI is an insurance contract between you and the insurance carrier. A Will has no impact on your SGLI, so make sure your beneficiary information is up to date on MILCONNECT. Additionally, the death gratuity paid pursuant to a DD-93 cannot be disposed of through your Will. This means it is very important to stay up to date on your HR administrative metrics and keep your beneficiaries current. Other examples of assets that might not be disposed of through a Will are property jointly owned with a right of survivorship or certain bank and investment accounts that have a death beneficiary. If there are questions regarding these types of assets, talk to an attorney.
- Even if you do not need a Will you can still get one done! The process on getting one is quick and easy with our office. Stop by or email our office for a Will booklet. Once complete, return it to our office, and our paralegals will get you an appointment scheduled within a couple of business days. At the appointment, the Will and any other requested legal documents will be completed ahead of time for you to review during your appointment.
- Other documents to consider while you are at legal: advance medical directive (nominate a medical power of attorney with treatment preferences if you are incapacitated), living will, general power of attorney, and/or a special power of attorney.
- **Want to make SRP a little shorter and get legal done now? Want to get a Will done now? Want to get a mirror image Will done for your spouse during the same appointment? Make your SRP a little easier and get it done now by emailing us for an appointment at: usarmy.stewart.forscom.mbx.fsga-legal-assistance-office@army.mil ..or stopping by our office!**

If you have inquiries or would like to schedule an appointment with one of our attorneys, please email us at: usarmy.stewart.forscom.mbx.fsga-legal-assistance-office@army.mil.

Disclaimer: These materials have been prepared for general informational purposes only, and are not legal advice. This information is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship, and receipt of it does not constitute an attorney-client relationship.

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