

Where should I Keep My Last Will and Testament?

By Rudy Wartella

Many of you have wills.¹ Now that you have one, what should you do with it? It is important that you keep your will in a safe place. Don't keep your will in your rucksack. Make sure that you let your executor (personal representative), trustee, and appointed guardians (and your alternates) know where your **original** will is kept. The best place to store a will is in a fire-proof safe, but your will can also be left with your personal representative, or put in your safety deposit box. Before putting your will in a safety deposit box, ask your bank about accessibility after your death. Some states require that the safety deposit box be sealed after death and your family would need a court order to retrieve it.

You may make a copy of your original will, but if you do so, do not remove the staples to make the copy, and clearly mark "COPY" on every page. A copy is not a substitute for the original will. Copies are not valid and may only lead to legal problems if the original will is not found. A will may be revoked at any time by destroying it with the intention of revoking its contents. If you revoke your will, be sure to destroy all of the copies.

Do not make any changes on the will after it has been executed. Any alterations made to the will may invalidate the entire will. If a will is destroyed, you should have another will prepared. For more information about Wills and to obtain a Will Worksheet, please visit our **new** web page at: www.10rsglegal.weebly.com. If you want to make a change to your will or get a will prepared, contact the Torii Station Legal Assistance Office at 644-4332. The Torii Station Legal Assistance Office is located in Room 219, Building 218 (across the street from the Post Office).

Will Checklist

Do you have a will?	
Where is your will located?	
Does your executor know where your will is kept?	
Is your will up-to-date?	
Where can I get a Will Worksheet?	www.10rsglegal.weebly.com , or by calling 644-4332
How can I get an appointment to make a will?	Call the legal assistance office at 644-4332

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¹ If you do not have a will, it may be a good time to consider making one. Please contact 644-4332 for an appointment to have a will prepared.