

**Attorney Timothy P. Crawford, CPA, CELA\*, CAP\*\***  
wanted to share this information with you.

## **INTERNET WILLS**

**GREATER MILWAUKEE AREA OFFICES IN BROOKFIELD, GLENDALE, MILAWUAKEE, OAK CREEK & RACINE**

***Your Asset Protection Law Firm***

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Sometimes prospective clients ask me to review wills they have drawn using services on the Internet. I respectfully decline, for a number of reasons.

Years ago estate planning was simple. Estates consisted of a house, some cash, some securities, and maybe a life insurance policy. A simple will might work very well.

The nature of assets has changed. More and more assets are wrapped in complex packages. In some estates the largest assets might be an IRA and an annuity. Securities may be held in accounts which are payable on death. The assets which pass through probate, and which are dealt with by a will, may be only a small part of the total.

If you use a service on the Internet, nobody will look at your IRA and the potential for stretching the IRA payout, and annuities (which are often very complex) will not be examined. Nobody will ask about prospective inheritances, disabilities of beneficiaries, and other important matters. With such a service you might get it right, and you might get it dreadfully, and expensively, wrong.

If a new client comes to visit and asks me to revise or update documents prepared by another lawyer, I usually refuse, even if the draftsman was a lawyer I respect. It is more efficient for me to draft an estate plan using parts of documents ("boilerplate") I have worked on and revised and improved and updated over many years, than it is to study and interpret something someone else has written.

When you hire me or someone else to prepare an estate plan for you, a very small part of the bill relates to the paperwork. What you are paying for, for the most part, is the effort involved in studying your situation, examining the estate tax and income tax of your situation, looking at financial documents to determine how they are held, and deciding what instruments will meet your needs.

The Internet is wonderful, but not for drafting your will.

**“Those Who Plan Ahead Win.  
Those Who Don’t Plan Ahead Lose.”**

This article is for informational purpose only and is not intended as legal advice. It is recommended that you call Timothy P. Crawford for a free conference to discuss your situation in more detail. Attorney Crawford can be reached at 1-262-634-6659. Please refer to this article when you call.

\*Attorney Timothy P. Crawford is a Nationally Board Certified Elder Law Attorney (**CELA**). He has been Board Certified by the National Elder Law Foundation which has been approved as the Sole Certifying Organization for Elder Law Attorneys by the American Bar Association.

\*\*Timothy P. Crawford was invited to join the Council of Advanced Practitioners (**CAP**) of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (**NAELA**) in August of 2005. **CAP** is a small group of premier elder law attorneys, all of whom have been members of NAELA for at least 10 years, are certified as elder law attorneys by the National Elder Law Foundation, and are AV rated by Martindale Hubbell, a service that provides an independent rating of the quality of attorneys, as one of the top attorneys in the nation.

Attorney Timothy P. Crawford has been selected as a **Fellow** of NAELA. **Fellow** is the highest honor bestowed by the Academy. Selection as a **Fellow** signifies that his peers recognize the lawyer as a model for others and as an exceptional lawyer and leader.

Attorney Timothy P. Crawford has a superb rating of 10 out of 10 with A V V O.

A V V O has awarded to Attorney Timothy P. Crawford the A V V O Client’s Choice Award.

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BROOKFIELD, GLENDALE, MILWAUKEE, OAK CREEK & RACINE**

**"Helping Families in Wisconsin for Over 40 Years  
to Protect Their Assets from Nursing Home Care Cost"**

“A majority of text has come from an article prepared by Attorney Russell E. Haddleton, friend of Attorney Timothy P. Crawford, is used here with permission.”

