

Will Kits
Comment for Choice Magazine



**Peninsula Community
Legal Centre Inc**

Peninsula Community Legal Centre is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that has been providing free legal services to Melbourne's south-eastern communities for more than 30 years.

Principal Lawyer, Victoria Mullings, says:

"With private lawyers charging as much as \$600 (although sometimes as little as \$50), Wills Kits are recommended by Peninsula Community Legal Centre to some clients as one of the options available for putting their affairs in order.

Our experience has shown that Wills Kits are often suitable for clients who have only basic assets and require quite simple arrangements, typically leaving their entire estate to a spouse and / or children, possibly with grandchildren as alternate beneficiaries. They should also be comfortable in following written directions.

Common mistakes people can make include:

- Testators who include a joint tenancy or joint account, assuming that these are part of their estate;
- Not including a residue clause, which makes provision for any property not otherwise disposed of; and
- Failing to understand the risk of challenge where dependents are not provided for.

While we believe that Wills Kits are a useful and low cost alternative, particularly for those clients who would otherwise not leave a Will, they should be recommended only where appropriate, and if at all possible, in conjunction with some basic legal advice on potential pitfalls."

END.

16 November 2009

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**We gratefully acknowledge
the financial assistance of:**

- Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department
- Department of Justice (Vic)
- Consumer Affairs Victoria
- Victoria Legal Aid
- City of Casey
- City of Glen Eira
- City of Kingston
- Frankston City Council
- Mornington Peninsula Shire

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