

# DO NOT LET YOUR WISHES GET LOST IN TRANSLATION

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[Link to a podcast interview](#)



We all want our family members and loved ones to be taken care of when we are no longer alive. Sadly, our best intentions are often lost in translation.

The topic of estate planning is often avoided and perhaps it is because we do not want to deal with the thought of death. Estate planning is, however, a vital part of good financial planning because it forms the basis of the legacy we would like to leave through our Will.

[Investopedia](#) defines estate planning as “the preparation of tasks that serve to manage an individual's asset base in the event of their incapacitation or death”. The estate planning process generally starts with the drafting of a Will. Shockingly, statistics obtained in 2022 from the offices of the Master of the High Court of South Africa show that less than 15% of South Africans have a Will when they pass away.

In a case where there is a Will in place, we often find that drafting and planning mistakes can either render it impractical for certain provisions to be carried out or worse still, for the laws of Intestacy (Intestate Succession Act 81 of 1987, pre-determines the heirs) to apply. This can lead to unintended consequences, to the detriment of loved ones left behind.

It is, therefore, important to deal with a specialist to avoid pitfalls and challenges.

Are your instructions clear and does your plan make sufficient provision for your loved ones, or will your final wishes be lost in translation? If your answer is ‘no’, speak to a PPS Wealth Manager and ensure that all the consequences of your death have been addressed, adequate provisions made and a proper plan in place so that your legacy remains intact and your beneficiaries receive what you had planned.

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