Some people delay creating a will because they don't have a lawyer. But finding a lawyer is not as difficult as it may seem. In fact, hiring a lawyer is not even a requirement in order to have a valid will, and several document preparation services have arisen in the last few years as an alternative.

The most prominent and well-reviewed document preparation service is Quicken WillMaker Plus, a software program. Other services are web-based, such as LegalZoom.com and RocketLawyer.com.

With any of these services, you answer questions in an interview format and the document is prepared for you. It is your responsibility to closely follow the instructions for the signatures, witnesses, and notarizations that are required for your will to be recognized under your state's laws.

However, a document preparation service is not a substitute for the services of an attorney. An attorney can ask you detailed questions about your circumstances and wishes, and take on some responsibility for making sure your will meets your needs. If you create a will using a document preparation service, you are accepting all of that responsibility yourself.

Whether you decide to try a document preparation service or hire a lawyer, we have provided useful information on the opposite side to help you find the right option for you.
RESOURCES

LegalZoom
LegalZoom offers a will preparation service delivered online and also maintains a network for attorney referrals. As of this writing, Legalzoom also offers a low-cost package that includes preparation of a will through their automated online service, and review of your will by an independent licensed attorney.
https://www.legalzoom.com

American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC)
ACTEC is a professional society of estate planning attorneys who are chosen by their peers for membership. ACTEC Fellows tend to be specialists, beyond the typical attorney who may have wills and trusts as part of a general law practice. They are likely to be well qualified to handle complex trust and estate issues.
http://www.actec.org/fellows/public-search

Martindale
This is the broadest list of attorneys, and should include most or all of the licensed attorneys in any given city or state who list themselves as doing estate planning work.
http://www.martindale.com/by-location

Ask your friends
You may already know a friend or family member who has personal experience with an attorney. Ask the people close to you. They can often be the best sources of referrals.

WE’RE HERE TO HELP
Leaving a gift to the ACLU is also a wonderful way to honor and remember someone who inspired your passion for liberty. To discuss your goals or notify us of a legacy gift you have planned, please contact us.

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