

The ARQRV is a not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers who are themselves residents in a retirement village. Our aim is to represent the interests of residents in retirement villages to Government and Village Operators. The ARQRV, after more than 25 years, retains a focus on consumer protection, and is an advocate on behalf of residents to examine, advise and/or act upon matters referred to us by any financial member.

We would like to think that when the time comes that we are unable to deal with our own affairs, we have made it as easy as possible for the person taking that job on and that our wishes will be respected. For that to happen we need to put in place a number of things:

### Key Steps to Estate Planning

An Enduring Power of Attorney	Find someone you can trust to handle your affairs, financial, personal or both. The Qld Government website has a lot of information about this at <a href="http://www.justice.qld.gov.au">www.justice.qld.gov.au</a> . Search for <i>Enduring Power of Attorney</i> in the blank box in the top right-hand corner. You may also consider talking to your Solicitor.
An Advanced Health Directive	The same web-site has a document called <i>Advanced Health Directive or Living Will</i> . This will be a crucial document if you and/or your partner become terminally ill, become mentally impaired or must be kept on life support.
A Valid Will	<p>It seems so logical that we make a Will when we advance in years. Lots of people leave it too late. There are Will forms at your stationery shop you can fill in and have your signature witnessed. Alternatively, you might want to talk to your Solicitor.</p> <p><i>An Executor</i> needs to be appointed in your Will and that person <b>needs to know</b> where your documents are kept.</p> <p><i>The Qld Public Trustee Office</i> can prepare and amend your Will for free. Many other related services can be provided at a competitive hourly rate. Information on services available and any applicable fees can be obtained from the Qld Public Trustee at <b>1300 360 044</b> or on <a href="http://www.pt.qld.gov.au">www.pt.qld.gov.au</a></p>
Granting Probate	Probate is granted where the deceased has left a Will nominating one or more Executors or personal representative. It is the official verification and approval from the Supreme Court that the Will is the last Will and testament of the deceased and the person named as Executor is authorised to act. It usually applies when the person's assets are of <i>substantial value</i> (over \$50,000). It is now <b>common practice</b> for the village operator or owner to sight the <i>Grant of Probate</i> before paying an exit entitlement to the deceased's estate. This legislation indemnifies and protects the scheme operator and the Executor where probate has been officially granted.
Exit Entitlements	If there is a <i>dispute</i> concerning the former resident's exit entitlement, affecting the money you leave behind, your beneficiaries will be unable to personally get involved <i>if you have appointed the Public Trustee</i> as your Executor of your Will. The Executor will need to seek advice in respect of obtaining <i>your exit entitlement</i> . Such an advisor would need to know the <i>Retirement Villages Act 1999</i> .

For further information please contact ARQRV

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