What happens if I die without a Will?

If you die without a Will, this is called **intestacy**. Each state has its own laws, but generally, your estate is divided among your closest relatives under a set formula. This can result in people inheriting whom you did not intend to benefit and in proportions which are not in accordance with your wishes.

In Victoria, for example:

- If there is a spouse/partner and no children, the spouse inherits everything.
- If there is a partner and children not shared with that partner, the partner receives a statutory legacy (a fixed cash sum) plus half the remaining estate; the other half goes equally to the children.
- If there are multiple partners (e.g., separated but not divorced and a new partner), the estate is divided equally between them.
- If no spouse or children survive, assets pass to parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, or cousins.
- If no relatives exist, the estate passes to the Crown.