



Ms Miller said other issues could arise around complex family settings, making changes to a will or vague wording that does not properly express a writer's wishes.

The Legal Services Commission, which provides advice to the public about legal issues, recommends people seek the help of a legal professional to make their will.

Although they say any will usually is better than none, LSC manager of access services Christopher Boundy said the process of managing the fall-out of inadequate wills was expensive and lengthy. "Any disputation is likely to erode funds that were previously available to beneficiaries of the will," he said.

The LSC last financial year received 582 inquiries about disputes over probate - the legal process of administering a person's estate - a rise of 6 per cent from the 2009-2010 year.

Law Society president Ralph Bonig said it was appropriate for some people to use home will kits if their relationship and estate were "simple". "If it steps outside the normal, people need to think twice about whether it's worth spending money on a properly made will to avoid the estate being chewed up by legal expenses," he said.

A University of NSW study revealed 50 per cent of estate disputes that led to court battles racked up "disproportionate" legal costs.