

# How to execute your Last Will & Testament

## What does it mean to “execute” a Will?

- To “execute” a Will is the process of making a Last Will and Testament valid.
- The legal requirements for executing a Will help safeguard against fraud or inaccuracy.

## How do I execute my Last Will & Testament?



**Print your completed Will** and carefully read over the document to make sure you fully understand it and there are no mistakes or missing information.



**Gather your chosen witnesses** and inform them that the document is your Last Will and Testament.



In the presence of your chosen witnesses, **initial the bottom of each page** except for the final page. **Sign the final page** using your usual check-signing signature.



In your presence, have both **witnesses initial the bottom of each page** next to your initials and then **sign and fill out** the required information on the final page.



**Instruct your witnesses** that they may have to appear before a court to verify this process was completed and that you were of age and sound mind at the time.



**Store the document** in a safe place.

## Additional notes:

- Initials and signatures should be below any document text in order to prevent confusion and improperly inserted or replaced pages.
- Remember that your witnesses should be competent adults who are not receiving anything under your Will, and are not the spouses of individuals receiving anything under your Will.
- Make sure the person who will execute your Will knows where to find it.
- You can make photocopies of your Will but the original must be produced before probate occurs (Will is administered). Any older out-of-date Wills should be destroyed.
- If you marry you should make a new Will. In most jurisdictions, Wills made prior to marriage become invalid on marriage.
- Review your Will periodically to see if it still reflects your wishes.

## Last Will Additional Information



### Complete your Estate Plan

You need more than a Last Will and Testament to fully manage and protect your estate. A good estate plan also includes a Living Will, and in some cases, a Power of Attorney or Living Trust. All these documents, along with explanatory help, are available for free at [LawDepot](https://www.lawdepot.com).



### Related Documents

The following are documents that you may find useful as you finish building your estate plan:

- **Gift Deed**  
Transfer ownership of real estate, personal property, or intellectual property without receiving anything of value in return.  
<http://www.lawdepot.com/contracts/gift-deed/>
- **Bill of Sale**  
Transfer ownership of personal property.  
<http://www.lawdepot.com/contracts/bill-of-sale/>
- **Codicil**  
Modify, remove, or add clauses to an existing Last Will and Testament.  
<http://www.lawdepot.com/contracts/codicil-to-will/>
- **Power of Attorney**  
Give another party the legal authority to act on your behalf in order to manage your legal and financial affairs.  
<http://www.lawdepot.com/contracts/power-of-attorney-forms/>
- **Revocable Living Trust**  
An estate planning document that allows you to place your assets in a trust so that they can be distributed according to your wishes upon your passing.  
<http://www.lawdepot.com/contracts/living-trust/>
- **Living Will (Health Care Directive)**  
Indicate your medical wishes in case you become incapacitated or otherwise unable to consent to your health care treatment.  
<http://www.lawdepot.com/contracts/living-will-medical-power-of-attorney/>

Know someone who could use free legal resources? Tell your friends using the links below:

