

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 your **three 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 Any older out-of-date Wills should be destroyed.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/>

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