

# 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 cheque-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.



**Print an Affidavit of Execution** (included with your Last Will) and have one witness sign the document in front of a commissioner of oaths or notary public. See LawDepot’s [Affidavit of Execution Instructions PDF](#) for more help.

If one of your witnesses do not complete an Affidavit of Execution, one of them may be required to appear before a court to verify that your Will was witnessed/executed correctly.



**Store the documents** 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, 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 Any older out-of-date Wills should be destroyed.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:

- **Bill of Sale**

Transfer ownership of personal property.

<http://www.lawdepot.com/contracts/bill-of-sale/>

- **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/>

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

