

Getting Started: Creating a Will

What is a Will?

A will is a signed document to direct what should be done with a person's property upon their death.

It also allows you to nominate a guardian for any minor children.

Without a will, a state statute directs who will receive your property at the time of your death.

Requirements and Recommendations

It is recommended to name the person who should handle your estate and provide a trust for the support of any minor children.

You are required to sign your will in front of two competent witnesses. These witnesses must also sign your will.

It is highly recommended that you have your will notarized.

Resources

- Find an attorney:
 - VALegalAid.org
 - VSB.org/Legal-Help
- Online programs:
 - LegalZoom.com
 - TrustAndWill.com

Getting Started

- Create a list of assets and their value (property, life insurance policies, retirement plans, etc.), as well as a list of your debts.
- Create a list of family members, other individuals, and organizations who should benefit from your estate.
- Determine who would be an appropriate executor, trustee, or guardian for minor children.
- Determine to whom assets should be distributed.