



planning
your
legacy of
faith

A Believer's Guide to Wills & Trusts



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Planning for the Future

A Believer's Guide to Wills and Trusts

During your lifetime, you may work forty years to accumulate assets and spend ten to twenty years conserving that accumulation. Ironically, many people invest two hours or less to plan for distribution of the assets. Too many times there has been little prayer or planning and their last chapter of life becomes burdensome for family members and fails to reflect their values.

This guide is designed to help you move forward in designing a plan that writes a consistent chapter in the book of your life. Through proper planning, a legacy of love and care that you leave for your family and others can be encouraging and even inspiring. Indeed, the Bible tells us, *“If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” 1 Timothy 5:8 (NIV).*

Being a “good and faithful servant” includes creating an estate plan. This important stewardship of the things that God has entrusted to you can both protect and provide for your family. This document will assist you in establishing a thoughtful, life-giving plan.

This guide is designed to encourage you to think about how you want your assets to be distributed at death and to assist you in gathering the information your attorney will need. With this guide, hopefully the process will be much easier, less expensive and fulfill your desires for family and the Lord's work.

► Three Steps to a “Sleep Well” Plan

1. **Complete the Wills and Trusts Guide.** Plan to spend two or three sessions completing this guide. It may take you two or three hours.
2. **Take the guide to an attorney.** He or she will review your plan, prepare your will and any other needed documents. (We will help you find a qualified attorney if you so desire.)
3. **Sign your estate planning documents.** After reviewing the documents prepared by your attorney, sign them and rest well knowing that you have provided for those you love.

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Introduction

Guide to Wills and Trusts

Welcome to A Believer's Guide to Wills and Trusts.

We rejoice that you are taking steps to protect those you love through an updated estate plan. A plan is important, but an estimated 70% of Americans don't even have a will. This guide will help you by making the process easy and understandable.

What are the benefits of an estate plan?

Peace - An estate plan is designed to help you provide for those you love.

Provision - You have spent most of your lifetime gathering assets and making plans. But many people spend more time planning their vacation than planning their estate. With a good estate plan you can give loved ones the property you have acquired in the right way, at the right time and at minimum cost.

Protection - In addition, a good plan will provide for you in your senior years. It may be important to designate a specific person to manage your property, help doctors and other medical staff with important decisions and make certain that you are receiving the best possible care. An estate plan can increase your lifetime security and also achieve your goals for family and charity.

Spiritual Legacy - 1 Chronicles 29:11-12 clearly illustrates God's ownership and provision of all that we have. *¹¹ Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. ¹² Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. (NIV)*. An estate plan that acknowledges His ownership ensures that your final act on earth is one of good stewardship and helps to prepare the next steward.

How do I get started?

We have designed *A Believer's Guide to Wills and Trusts* for your benefit. It is usually best to move fairly quickly through the different sections. Much of this information you may know or have readily available. If necessary, you can come back later and fill in any information that was not available initially.

And if I have questions about some of the information?

When it comes time to decide on the distribution of your property, you may have some questions. There are two different resources that will help you. In addition to the explanations within this guide, we have a wealth of online estate planning information on our website. Just log on to www.sbcfn.org. In addition, we are always available to help. Just call us at 800.245.8183.

What benefits can be gained by updating my will?

With an updated will, you can transfer specific property or assets. In addition, you will be able to direct the residue of your estate. For those with larger estates, there could be opportunities for substantial tax savings. In addition, the personal representative or executor that you select (not the one a probate judge chooses) will be managing your property. A well-crafted will can carry out your plan and save thousands of dollars while transferring property quickly and inexpensively to your loved ones.

What is accidental disinheritance?

An “accidental disinheritance” can occur if you either have no will or the will doesn’t function properly. Sometimes a will is unclear and the estate goes to distant relatives or is simply paid to CPAs and attorneys who are representing family members fighting over the estate. You can avoid a potential “accidental disinheritance” by establishing an effective plan.

Can I use my estate plan to create a Christian legacy?

Everyone wants to have a life with meaning. We can choose to live on in the memory of family and friends, and by investing in ministries that shape eternity. A believer’s estate plan can help create a legacy of faith that will touch your family, your church or other ministries.

Another aspect is to use property the Lord entrusts to your care to lift up those in need. Paul spoke to those in Corinth and said,

“Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion.” -2 Corinthians 9:10-11 (NIV).

Your estate is a wonderful opportunity to bless others in need with a portion of your lifetime “increase” in property. For people who have given tithes and offerings their whole life wouldn’t it make sense to impact the Kingdom in their estate as well?

➤ Estate Planning Documents



There are three basic steps in the estate planning process.

1. Write Down What You Own

As a Christian, you naturally want to be a “good and faithful servant” with your property. An important first step is to understand what property God has given you to manage and what property will be transferred through your estate. Job 41:11 says *“Everything under heaven belongs to me (NIV),”* you have been given responsibility to manage and decide where it will be given.

2. Know How Property is Transferred

Some property is transferred by will and some is transferred by a beneficiary designation or other form. You need to know how your property will be transferred in order to avoid an accidental disinheritance. With a good plan, your property will be transferred as you desire.

3. Sign Your Will and Medical Directives

Finally, it is important to sign the documents that express correctly your desires for both your property and your potential future personal care.

Basic Planning Documents

Let's start by reviewing the three basic estate planning documents — a will, a durable power of attorney for finances, and a durable power of attorney for healthcare.

A. Current Will

Your will is a written document, signed by you and by two or more witnesses. In some states, your signature may be witnessed by a notary public. A properly executed will is used to determine the distribution of your property. If the will is not valid or if you do not have a will, the court will follow the laws of interstate succession in your state to determine the distribution of your property. Some court decisions might be completely contrary to your desires.

For example, without a valid will a judge might choose guardians for your minor children, select trustees to manage your property and award property to your distant relatives. The actions of this judge will follow legal standards but these default provisions may be completely contrary to your desires.

With a valid will, you are able to choose who will inherit your property and who will administer your estate as executor or personal representative. If you have minor children, you can choose a person to raise your children. With a trust, you are permitted to decide who will manage the trust for family members.

A valid will is an essential part of transferring your property at the right time to the right people at the lowest cost. Without a valid will, costs, delays and the probability of expensive conflict increases. You can provide a wonderful legacy for family with an updated will and a sound estate plan.

B. Durable Power of Attorney for Finances

You probably are a very good financial manager. As long as you are able to manage your affairs, things will be fine. However, there may come a time when you are in poor health or perhaps in the hospital. While lying on your hospital bed, you do not want to worry about your property being neglected. A durable power of attorney for finances is the solution that protects your property and yourself. If you are no longer able to manage your property, the person that you select in this durable power has the right to act as your agent. Even if you are disabled or incapacitated, this person will have the legal right to manage your property. If you do not have a durable power of attorney for finances, it will be necessary for the court to appoint a conservator.

The court may select any person as conservator and there often will be expensive reports, audits and costs in the management of your property. If you sign a durable power of attorney for finances, the person that you select may manage your property without all the expense of a court-appointed conservator.

C. Healthcare Directives

There are two general types of healthcare directives — a durable power of attorney for healthcare and a living will. In some states, they are combined into one document called an advance directive.

The durable power of attorney for healthcare allows you to select a person who can assist your doctors in making healthcare decisions while you may be incapacitated. You may have a serious medical condition and the doctor will need the advice of another person regarding the best possible care for you. Your designated holder of the durable power of attorney for healthcare can help the doctors ensure that you have that high quality care.

The living will is a second document (in most states) and covers the time before your probable death. In the last days and weeks of life, there are a number of decisions regarding care, nutrition, hydration and resuscitation that need to be made. The living will gives you the opportunity to express your preferences about the types of care to be provided to you at that time.

D. We also recommend the following items as part of your basic estate planning:

[A Legacy Will](#) - A Legacy Will is a non-legal document that allows you to record key pieces of your personal story – confirming the legacy of God’s grace for the next generation. It includes questions about your youth such as “Who were your best friends in high school?” or “How did you meet your spouse?” It also includes questions about your spiritual life such as “How did you come to faith?” and “What was the most important spiritual lesson you learned as a youth?” You will find this document on our website.

[An Electronic Will](#) - An Electronic Will grants the person you designate to access and control all on-line information (accounts and information that would be password protected in web-driven serves). This includes everything from online banking and investment management to Facebook and social media sites. A bank may bar your spouse from accessing online accounts that you have set-up if they were not previously granted access; accounts can be frozen. Social networking sites can remain active long after a person is deceased should a survivor not have the ability to deactivate them through an electronic will.



Your Benefits with Other Planning Options

A. Living Trusts

If you have a moderate or large estate, you may find it desirable to create a living trust. The living trust is completely within your control during your lifetime. You can add property to the trust or remove property from the trust at any time. During your lifetime, the trust income is taxable to you.

There are at least three major benefits of the living trust. If you are sick or in the hospital, your designated successor trustee can take over and manage your property for your benefit. Second, if you pass away, the property in the living trust will avoid probate and potentially save some administration costs. Third, the living trust typically is a private document and not made public during the probate process.

B. Custom Estate Plan for Business, Investments or Special Needs Child

If you own a family business, substantial real estate holdings or a large estate, then a custom plan that considers your special property goals and requirements should be created. Another custom plan option is important if you have a child with special needs. A child with special needs may be provided for through a special needs trust. A special needs trust will facilitate care of the child by providing resources and directions. In some cases, a child may qualify to receive federal or state benefits if that is helpful in providing care for the special needs child.

C. IRA, 401(k) or Other Retirement Plan

Your IRA, 401k or other retirement plan is transferred by a beneficiary designation. Normally, the beneficiaries should be named on the IRA, and it should be given directly to family or charity, and not to your estate. The IRA or 401k custodian should provide a form for you to select a primary and contingent beneficiary. Because your retirement plan may represent a major portion of your property, your beneficiary designation should be reviewed every two to four years.

D. Life Insurance

Life insurance is usually permanent (whole life or universal life) or term. The insurance policy is a contract, and there is a beneficiary designation form. You will select the primary and contingent beneficiaries to receive the death benefit if you pass away with a valid insurance policy.

E. Charitable Remainder Trusts

A charitable remainder trust is an excellent way to benefit yourself, your spouse, or other family members. It combines substantial tax savings with the ability to produce a very good income for you or your family members. Charitable remainder trusts are especially helpful for individuals who retire and would like to sell highly appreciated land or stock tax-free and receive a consistent income.

F. Charitable Gift Annuity

Couples and individuals, especially those age 70 and above, are very interested in fixed payments from a charitable gift annuity. If you fund a gift annuity, you receive an income tax charitable deduction and fixed payments for life. A gift annuity may pay for one life or for two lives. For a husband and wife, the payments will last until both have passed away. The amount of your payments are based on the amount you fund the annuity with, the age(s) of you and (potentially) your spouse and when you wish payments to begin. We would be pleased to give you a quote.

G. Donor Advised Funds

Many families find that a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) is a simple and efficient way to help charities that they love. By establishing such a fund, you can time the gifts you make (for investment or tax reasons) and you can select ministries you wish to benefit from your gifts. You receive the income or estate tax deduction, and the opportunity is there to make distribution decisions later. Many families may use a Donor Advised Fund as an estate beneficiary so that they can allow their children or friends to continue supervising the gifts from their fund for years to come. Parents appreciate the way that their DAF encourages children to be involved in philanthropy and stewardship. Let us know, and we would explore the benefits of this approach with you.

H. Charitable Endowments

Another option is to leave property or money in an endowment form so that the ministry does not spend the principal. Instead, the ministry spends only the endowment income (as often the donors have done all of their lives). Endowments may be left to community or religious foundations, or often directly to the charity with instructions as to their use. It is often helpful to suggest a general purpose for the endowment fund because it will last perpetually, and the original purpose for the gift may one day not exist. If you are interested in an endowment approach to your charitable gifts, please contact us.



You And Your Family

Please tell about you and your family. Print names in ink, not pencil. Spell names exactly as you want them to appear in your estate documents. USE full legal names, not nicknames.

Your Personal Information

Date _____

Your Full Legal Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Gender Male Female

Present marital status

Married Single Divorced Legally Separated Widowed

If you are widowed, what date did this occur? _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ E-mail _____

Employer _____

Job Title _____ Work Phone () _____

Are you a U.S. Citizen? No Born in the U.S. Naturalized

Check which documents you presently have:

- Will Living Trust
 Living Will Durable Power of Attorney/Health Care



Your Spouse

Spouse Full Legal Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Gender Male Female

Have you been previously married? Yes No

If you are widowed, what date did this occur? _____

Spouse Employer _____

Job Title _____ Work Phone () _____

Is your spouse a U.S. Citizen? No Born in the U.S. Naturalized

Check which documents your spouse presently has

- Will Living Trust
 Living Will Durable Power of Attorney/Health Care
 Durable Power of Attorney/Finances

Do you and your spouse have a Pre-Nuptial Agreement that identifies and disposes of separate spousal property? (If yes, attach a copy.) Yes No

Religious Affiliation

Religious Organization _____

City and State _____

Children

Please list all children, whether minors or adults, **including deceased children and children of a prior marriage**. If you need more space, attach additional pages. If you wish to exclude a child as a beneficiary of your estate, check the "Exclude" box. If you have no children write "NONE."

1. Legal Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Natural Legally Adopted Foster Social Security # _____

Marital Status Married Divorced Needs Special Care Dependent Exclude

Current Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Origin Child of present marriage Child by prior marriage of spouse Deceased

2. Legal Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Natural Legally Adopted Foster Social Security # _____

Marital Status Married Divorced Needs Special Care Dependent Exclude

Current Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Origin: Child of present marriage Child by prior marriage of spouse Deceased

3. Legal Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Natural Legally Adopted Foster Social Security # _____

Marital Status: Married Divorced Needs Special Care Dependent Exclude

Current Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Origin Child of present marriage Child by prior marriage of spouse Deceased

4. Legal Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Natural Legally Adopted Foster Social Security # _____

Marital Status Married Divorced Needs Special Care Dependent Exclude

Current Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Origin Child of present marriage Child by prior marriage of spouse Deceased

5. Legal Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Natural Legally Adopted Foster Social Security # _____

Marital Status Married Divorced Needs Special Care Dependent Exclude

Current Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Origin Child of present marriage Child by prior marriage of spouse Deceased

6. Legal Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Natural Legally Adopted Foster Social Security # _____

Marital Status Married Divorced Needs Special Care Dependent Exclude

Current Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Origin Child of present marriage Child by prior marriage of spouse Deceased

If you need more space, attach additional pages. If you wish to exclude a child as a beneficiary of your estate, check the "Exclude" box. If you have no children write "NONE."

Your Estate Planning Goals

A number of goals can be carried out through your estate plan. Listed below are several types of goals. Please indicate how important these goals are by circling a number from 1 to 5 by each goal (5 being the most important).

Goal	Ranking (1-5 with 5 being the most important)
Reduce estate taxes	1 2 3 4 5
Increase current income	1 2 3 4 5
Provide for guardianship of minors	1 2 3 4 5
Provide for healthcare if disabled	1 2 3 4 5
Protect against liability	1 2 3 4 5
Create a kingdom legacy	1 2 3 4 5
Sell appreciated assets tax-free	1 2 3 4 5
Plan for business	1 2 3 4 5
Other goals listed below	1 2 3 4 5

Comments



Estate Planning Family Background

1. Have you or your spouse made gifts greater than the annual exclusion (with indexed increases in later years) in any one year to any individual?
If yes, please describe:

2. Are you or your spouse presently serving as the trustee of any trust, guardian of any minors (other than your children), or Personal Representative (also called an Executor) of any estate?
If yes, please describe:

3. Have you or your spouse created any trusts or made gifts to any trusts?
If yes, please describe:

4. Do you or your spouse expect an inheritance within the next year? If so, from whom and how much?

5. State the location and box number of any safety deposit boxes and who is permitted to enter the box:

You And Your Contacts

◆ Your Personal Representative/Executor

It is your privilege and responsibility to name the person who will take care of all business matters and distribute your property as instructed by you in your will. Expenses may be reduced by stating that this person may serve without bond. Your Personal Representative should be familiar with your family and competent to handle financial and business affairs. Unless you name a personal representative in your will, the probate court will appoint an administrator, in which case a bond and potentially expensive reporting will be required. This will probably increase the time and costs of administering and distributing your estate.

Personal Representative _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ E-mail _____

Relationship, if not a spouse _____

Alternate Personal Representative

In case the person above is unable to serve, please name an Alternate Personal Representative

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Guardian for Minor Children

If you have minor children (under age 18, in most states), a guardian should be named for their care in your will. For many parents, this is the most important reason for having a will. The guardian is the person who has actual physical custody of your minor children. If you do not select a guardian, the court will appoint one for you if there is no surviving parent. In this case, your children may be forced to live with someone you would not have chosen. It is important to select a guardian who shares your values and ideals and will teach those values to your children. If you are married, your primary guardian will usually be your spouse. However, an alternate guardian should be named in the event that your first choice of guardian is deceased or unable to serve.

If your spouse is to serve as first choice for guardian (as is the case in most instances where your surviving spouse is the parent of the child), write "spouse" in the first guardian space below. For your alternate guardian, if there is a death or divorce, you will want to review this selection.

Guardian _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ E-mail _____

Relationship, if not a spouse _____

Alternate Guardian

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ E-mail _____

Relationship, if not a spouse _____



Healthcare – Protecting Yourself If Seriously Ill

There are two primary documents that will provide for your future healthcare. A durable power of attorney for healthcare empowers another person you select to make key decisions on your care. These could include whether an operation should be done or other major healthcare decisions should be made.

A second document is a living will. If you are in your final weeks or days of life, then decisions must be made with respect to nutrition, hydration, resuscitation and other critical care.

A durable power of attorney for healthcare is important to ensure that the right person has been selected. It is called a “durable” power because it is effective even if you are ill and not capable of making your own decisions.

In some states the living will and durable power of attorney are combined in an “Advance Directive” document.

Please select your primary and secondary healthcare decision makers.

Healthcare Power of Attorney

Healthcare Power of Attorney _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ E-mail _____

Relationship, if not a spouse _____

Alternate Healthcare Power of Attorney

Alternate Healthcare Power of Attorney _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ E-mail _____

Relationship, if not a spouse _____

A common concern is, "What if I am sick and no longer able to manage my property?" Unfortunately, there are far too many cases of the property of senior persons being mismanaged or taken away by fraud or misrepresentation. A very good plan for protection of yourself and your property is to have a durable power of attorney for finances.

If you are no longer able to manage your property or later wish to have someone else manage your property, this durable power of attorney will give the person you select the legal authority to buy, sell and manage your property. Of course, if you have a revocable living trust, the successor trustee will manage the property in the trust. But it is still very possible that you own other property personally. The durable power of attorney for finances enables the individual you designate to manage your property and provide for your care.

Do you want to create a durable power of attorney for finances? Yes _____

If married, does your spouse want a durable power of attorney? Yes _____

For the durable power of attorney please list information about the selected person.

Finances Power of Attorney

Primary Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ E-mail _____

Relationship, if not a spouse _____

Alternate Finances Power of Attorney

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ E-mail _____

Estate Planning Finances

Assets

Please list all of your assets and liabilities. This will help your advisor plan your estate. Most people learn at the end of this exercise that they are worth more than that they think!

Assets	\$ Total Value of Asset	Check if Joint Property	Check if Husband's Property	Check if Wife's Property
Example Property	\$298,000		✓	
Real Estate				
Main Residence Address				
Second residence				
Vacation home				
Checking Accounts				
Bank, Account Number				
Savings Accounts/ CDs/ Money Market Funds, Credit Union Accounts				
Bank, Account Number				
Tax Sheltered Annuity - not in retirement plan				

Assets (continued)	\$ Total Value of Asset	Check if Joint Property	Check if Husband's Property	Check if Wife's Property
------------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------------	---------------------------------

Investments				
--------------------	--	--	--	--

Bonds or Bond Fund Custodian, Account Number				
Stocks or Stock Fund Custodian, Account Number				
Saving Bonds				

Personal Property				
--------------------------	--	--	--	--

Furniture/Household furnishings				
Tools & Equipment				
Antiques/ Collections				
Jewelry				
Automobiles/Vehicles				
Business Interests				
Life Insurance-Face amount/ death benefit				
Retirement (IRA/401k/403b) Custodian, Acct#				
Miscellaneous				
TOTAL ASSETS \$				

Liabilities

Liabilities	\$ Total Value of Liability	Check if Joint Property	Check if Husband's Property	Check if Wife's Property
Mortgage on Personal Residence				
Second Residence				
Vacation Home				
Vehicle Debts				
Charge Accounts				
Installment Contracts				
Loans on Life Insurance				
Other Debts				
TOTAL LIABILITIES/ DEBTS \$				
TOTAL ESTATE (Assets Less Liabilities)				

List Below the Sources of Your Property



Planning Your Estate

◀ Choosing Your Estate Plan

When you are planning your estate, there are several decisions that must be made. First, you may select one of three options for a single person or for a married couple. After selecting your desired estate planning option, then you will be able to enter the information for that plan.

Single Person

1. **Simple Will.** With a simple will, you may transfer specific property, and then give away what is left or the residue of your estate. Your simple will transfers your property to family members or favorite charities/ministries.
2. **Will With Trust for Minor Children.** If you are a single parent with minor children, it will be important to select a guardian and a trustee to manage assets for their benefit.
3. **Will With “Give It Twice” Trust.** As a single person, you may desire to benefit children, nephews, nieces or other relatives and also assist charity. A “Give It Twice” Trust pays income to family with remainder to charity.

Married Couple

1. **Simple Will.** If you pass away first, your estate is transferred to your surviving spouse. If you are the survivor, with a simple will you may transfer specific property and then give away the residue of your estate. Your simple will may transfer your property to family members, your church and/or favorite ministries.
2. **Will With Trust for Minor Children.** If you pass away first, your estate is transferred to your surviving spouse. If you are the survivor and have minor children, it will be important to select a guardian and a trustee to manage assets for their benefit.
3. **Will With “Give It Twice” Trust.** If you pass away first, your estate is transferred to your surviving spouse. If you are the survivor, you may desire to benefit children, nephews, nieces or other relatives and also assist charity. A “Give It Twice” Trust pays income to family with remainder to the charities you select.

► The “Right Amount” Christian Inheritance

What is the “right amount” to leave for children, grandchildren, nephews or nieces? Here are three guiding principles for deciding on that amount.

First, everyone should provide for the needs of his or her family. *“If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” 1 Timothy 5:8 (NIV).* Second, this means that the inheritance provides a reasonable level of increased standard of living for the child, nephew or niece. Third, there are many children who have received an inheritance large enough to cover both needs and wants. An inheritance that covers too many “wants and desires” may lead to unhappiness, greed and a failure to trust in the Lord for provision.

Finally, are there guidelines for leaving children a substantial inheritance? Some Christian parents have been careful with their resources and have accumulated a significant estate. How can a larger estate be transferred with a good result for children?

1. A larger inheritance will be used more wisely if it is distributed over a longer time and at a later age. A lump sum at one time may be unwise. Many younger children who receive a large inheritance at an early age spend it within 18 months. When asked where the inheritance went they may reply, “Well, I spent it on cars, boats and vacations, and wasted the rest!”
2. Transfer a larger inheritance over a period of years. A good plan includes distribution of principal when the parents pass away, income for a period of years and a second payout of deferred principal.
3. Set up a target number for the inheritance. The total inheritance can then be designed to pass that amount to a child, nephew or niece. A target number is the sum of the principal and income given through the inheritance plan. With prayer and careful thought, the plan can move a substantial amount, while still permitting your child to learn to love the Lord, know the joy and rewards of work, and trust Him for provision.



Estate Plans for Singles

Plan Options – Please Circle #1, #2 or #3 and Complete That Section

1. Simple Will – Single Person

For a single person or surviving spouse there is a simple will for adult children, nephews or nieces. If the estate is under the federal exemption amount this plan may work well. With a simple will, it is possible to transfer a specific property or amount, and then to divide the balance or residue of the estate among children, nephews or nieces. Many individuals also decide to leave a bequest to charity.

An option you might consider is to treat your favorite charities/ministries collectively as one child, or one nephew or niece. The estate could be divided among your selected ministries and children. Consider an example of a person with three nieces. Under this plan, the ministries together are considered the fourth niece. Therefore, the three nieces and the charitable portion will each receive 1/4 of the estate. The 1/4 transferred to charity could be divided on a percentage basis between your favorite ministries.

Specific Bequests

<u>Item or Amount</u>	<u>Recipient, City and State</u>
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

Residue of Estate

Percent of residue to family or to charity.

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Recipient, City and State</u>
1. _____ % to _____	_____
2. _____ % to _____	_____
3. _____ % to _____	_____
4. _____ % to _____	_____

2. Will with Trust for Children – Single Person

If you are a single parent with minor children or desire a trust for your children, this option can work well. This option assumes that one trust is created with income distributions made equally to children until the selected age. However, the trustee may be given the right to invade the trust for the support, education, and health care of children. You will need to select a trustee and choose the age of the youngest child at which the trust principal will be distributed outright to your children.

If a testamentary trust is created by will for the benefit of minor children, it does not avoid probate. This trust would only become operative if neither parent is living. Funds from the trust are then given by the trustee to the guardian to provide for your children's care and living expenses, including college.

The trustee's responsibilities continue on until your child reaches the age you specify for the final distribution of any unused trust funds. The trustee can be the same person as the guardian if you so choose. Careful consideration should be given to this important position. Integrity and the ability and experience to manage financial assets are important factors to consider. If you die without a will and leave property to your minor children, the court will appoint a conservator for your estate unless you establish a trust for your children.

There are many advantages of a trust over a conservatorship. A conservator is generally appointed by a court and must follow rigid statutory rules. He or she must file an accounting and petition for approval before the court annually. This can result in expensive court costs and attorney fees. A conservatorship also ends at age 18 for each child and the child receives what is left in a lump sum. Ask yourself, "What will an 18 year old do with the money?" For obvious reasons, most parents don't like this arrangement. However, with a trust you can specify the age when your children will receive the principal from the trust. You don't have to give it all to them in a lump sum when they reach age 18, but may defer distribution of principal to age 25, age 30 or even longer.





Specific Bequests

<u>Item or Amount</u>	<u>Recipient, City and State</u>
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

Name, City and State of Trustee

Primary Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ E-mail: _____

Relationship, if not a spouse _____

Age for ending trust and distributing principal to children _____

Charity in Trust

It is also possible to include favorite charities/ministries in your final trust distribution. A popular option is to treat the charities collectively as one child at termination of the trust. If you would like to choose this option, please check here _____. In this case, all charities listed will divide one share and your children will each receive one share. Option: If you want selected charities to have a larger or smaller percent of your estate, you may also list that percent here _____.

Charities to divide one share – % Share, Legal Name, City and State

1. _____ % to _____

2. _____ % to _____

3. _____ % to _____

4. _____ % to _____

3. “Give It Twice” Trust for Family – Single Person

Another popular option for a single person or surviving spouse is to divide the estate into two parts. The first portion of the estate is given to the children when you pass away. The other part is transferred to a “Give It Twice” Trust. This is a charitable remainder unitrust that pays 5% each year to children for 20 years (5% times 20 years equals 100%—or you may select 6% for 18 years). After paying income to children for 20 years, the trust corpus is given to favorite ministries.

For example, a surviving spouse had an estate of \$600,000. She gave \$200,000 outright to children from the estate and placed \$400,000 in the “Give It Twice” trust. After payouts of over \$400,000 from the trust, the principal was given to her selected charities. Her children received \$600,000 – \$200,000 directly from the estate and \$400,000 of income from the trust.

Specific Bequests

Bequests of items or amounts to family or to charities.

<u>Item or Amount</u>	<u>Recipient, City and State</u>
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

If you select this option, please choose the portion outright and the part in the

“Give It Twice” trust (the total of the two percentages will be 100%).

Outright to Children _____% To “Give It Twice” Trust _____%



Children In Trust

Children to receive trust income – % Share, Legal Name, City and State

1. _____ % to _____

2. _____ % to _____

3. _____ % to _____

4. _____ % to _____

Charities at the End of The Trust

Charities to receive trust remainder – % Share, Legal Name, City and State

1. _____ % to _____

2. _____ % to _____

3. _____ % to _____



Estate Plans for Married Couples

Please choose one of the three options and fill out the information for that form only.

1. Simple Will – Married Couple

A married couple with an estate below the Federal exemption amount may desire a simple will. The first estate may include specific bequests to children or charity with the balance transferred outright to the surviving spouse. The estate of the surviving spouse may then be transferred by specific bequest or percent of the residuary to children or charity.

An option that you might consider is to treat your favorite charities/ministries collectively as one child. The estate of the surviving spouse could be divided among your selected charities and children. Consider an example with three children. Under this plan, the charities together are considered the fourth child. Therefore, the three children and the charitable portion will each receive $\frac{1}{4}$ of the estate. The $\frac{1}{4}$ transferred to charities could be divided on a percentage basis to your favorite ministries

First Estate - Specific Bequests, Balance to Spouse

Bequests of items or amounts to family or to charities.

<u>Item or Amount</u>	<u>Recipient, City and State</u>
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____





Bequests of Percentage of First Estate to Family or Charities, Balance to Spouse

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Recipient, City and State</u>
1. _____ % to _____	_____
2. _____ % to _____	_____
3. _____ % to _____	_____
4. _____ % to _____	_____

Second Estate - Specific Bequests, Balance to Spouse

Bequests of items or amounts to family or to charities.

<u>Item or Amount</u>	<u>Recipient, City and State</u>
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

Residue of Second Estate

Percent of residue to family or to charities.

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Recipient, City and State</u>
1. _____ % to _____	_____
2. _____ % to _____	_____
3. _____ % to _____	_____
4. _____ % to _____	_____

2. Will With Trust for Children – Married Couple

If you are a couple with minor children and desire a trust for children, this option can work well. A married couple with an estate below the Federal exemption amount may choose to protect and benefit children with a trust. The first estate may include specific bequests to children or charity with the balance transferred outright to the surviving spouse. The estate of surviving spouse may then be transferred by specific bequests with the residue passing to a trust for children.

This option assumes that one trust is created with income distributions made equally to children until the selected age. However, the trustee may be given the right to invade the trust for the support or education of children. You will need to select a trustee and choose the age of the youngest child for distribution of trust principal.

First Estate - Specific Bequests, Balance to Spouse

Bequests of items or amounts to family or to charities.

<u>Item or Amount</u>	<u>Recipient, City and State</u>
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

Bequests of Percentage of First Estate to Family or Charities, Balance to Spouse

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Recipient, City and State</u>
1. _____ % to _____	_____
2. _____ % to _____	_____
3. _____ % to _____	_____
4. _____ % to _____	_____



Second Estate - Specific Bequests, Balance to Spouse

Bequests of items or amounts to family or to charities.

<u>Item or Amount</u>	<u>Recipient, City and State</u>
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

Name, City and State of Trustee

Primary Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ E-mail _____

Relationship, if not a spouse _____

Age for ending trust and distributing principal to children _____

Charity in Trust

It is also possible to include charities in your final trust distribution. A popular option is to treat charities collectively as one child at termination of the trust. If you would like to choose this option, please check here _____. In this case, all charities listed will divide one share and your children will each receive one share. Option: If you want selected charities to have a larger or smaller percent of your estate, you may also list that percent here _____.

Charities to receive trust remainder – % Share, Legal Name, City and State

1. _____ % to _____

2. _____ % to _____

3. _____ % to _____

4. _____ % to _____

3. "Give It Twice" Trust for Family – Married Couple

A married couple with an estate below the Federal exemption amount may desire a simple will. The first estate may include specific bequests to children or charity with the balance transferred outright to the surviving spouse.

First Estate - Specific Bequests, Balance to Spouse

Bequests of items or amounts to family or to charities.

<u>Item or Amount</u>	<u>Recipient, City and State</u>
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

Bequests of Percentage of First Estate to Family or Charities, Balance to Spouse

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Recipient, City and State</u>
1. _____ % to _____	_____
2. _____ % to _____	_____
3. _____ % to _____	_____
4. _____ % to _____	_____

Second Estate - Specific Bequests, Balance to Spouse

Bequests of items or amounts to family or to charities.

<u>Item or Amount</u>	<u>Recipient, City and State</u>
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____



Residue of Second Estate

Percent of residue to family or to charities.

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Recipient, City and State</u>
1. _____ % to	_____
2. _____ % to	_____
3. _____ % to	_____
4. _____ % to	_____

Another popular option for the estate of a surviving spouse is to divide the second estate into two parts. The first portion of the estate is given to the children when you pass away. The other part is transferred to a “Give It Twice” Trust. This is a charitable remainder unitrust that pays 5% each year to children for 20 years (5% times 20 years equals 100% -- or you may select 6% for 18 years). After paying income to children for 20 years, the trust corpus is given to favorite ministries.

If you select this option, please choose the portion outright and the part in the

“Give It Twice” trust (the total of the two percentages will equal 100%).

Outright to Children _____% To “Give It Twice” Trust _____%

Children In Trust

Children to receive trust income – % Share, Legal Name, City and State

1. _____ % to	_____
2. _____ % to	_____
3. _____ % to	_____
4. _____ % to	_____

Charities at the End of The Trust

Charities to receive trust remainder – % Share, Legal Name, City and State

1. _____ % to	_____
2. _____ % to	_____
3. _____ % to	_____

Estate Planning Information

Personal Property Distribution

1. List to Dispose of Personal Property

Your will or trust is designed to transfer property to the person you select. However, many states permit you to update and maintain a list of personal items that may be changed whenever you desire. The lists must be signed, dated and describe the personal property and name the recipient.

Under the laws of most states, you are permitted to make a list of property that may include jewelry, silver, china, furniture, and collections of stamps, coins, art and other personal items that are movable. The advantage of this list is that you may update it as you buy or sell these items or you may change your mind about who should receive china, silver, rings or other personal items.

By making and updating this list, you can change the recipients as your property changes. It is important to be certain that you have signed and dated each list. Only the last list you have completed before your demise will be valid.

If some items on this list are very valuable (especially art and other collections), then it is important to discuss the transfer of these items with your professional advisor. Your advisor may use language similar to the language below in your will:

Example Language

“Under the laws of the State of _____ I may leave a written statement or a list, dated and signed by me, disposing of certain items of my tangible personal property. Any such list with date and signature shall be effective to transfer the named personal property.

If no signed and dated list is identified by my Personal Representative within thirty days after his or her qualification, it shall be presumed that there is no statement or list and any subsequently discovered statement or list shall be ignored.”



Anytime you update your list, make a copy and send the original to your attorney or personal representative for safekeeping. Please make your list here:

<u>Description/Location</u>	<u>Recipient, City and State</u>
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____

Ways to Give or Transfer of Personal Property

Give During Life. Many senior persons start the gift process during life. By giving personal items to children and other heirs, they understand and appreciate the gift.

Consider Preferences. Some children may desire a piano or other instrument. Others may prefer to receive valuable books or china. Discuss the goals of heirs and attempt to make gifts that will be most meaningful to each person.

Leave instructions. The list is very useful. Other items could be distributed through a “rotating choice” plan. Everyone meets together and each person may take a turn at selecting one item.

◀ Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Why should I make a will?

A will allows you to state how you want your property (estate) distributed, name a Personal Representative (also called an Executor) to distribute your property, pay debts and taxes, handle other business affairs to settle your estate, name a Guardian for your minor children, provide for your favorite ministries and set up trust funds.

Having a will speeds up the process of distributing your property after your death and can save expenses. Without a will, state laws dictate who receives your property, who serves as Administrator (the name usually given to a court-appointed Personal Representative) to settle your estate and who serves as Guardian for your minor children. Furthermore, without a will, there is no charitable bequest to your favorite charity. Furthermore, without a will, your estate costs are likely to be much higher.

2. Does a will distribute all of my property?

Certain assets pass outside of the will. For example, assets owned jointly by two persons with rights of survivorship will pass directly to the surviving owner. Life insurance, IRAs and pension plan proceeds go directly to the designated beneficiary. Property placed in a living trust is controlled by the provisions of the trust, not your will.

3. If I have a living trust, do I still need a will?

Yes. The living trust provisions apply to assets placed in the trust but the will controls other assets that have not been placed in the trust, such as furniture, household furnishings, clothing, personal property and any property acquired after funding the living trust. Typically, the residue from your probate estate is added to your living trust.

4. How can I change my will or living trust after they have been signed?

First, never cross out a sentence or words or make notes on your will or trust. These handwritten notes are an invitation for estate litigation. To change the will, your attorney will prepare a "codicil" which is an amendment to your will. If many changes are desired, your attorney may draft a new will. A living trust is changed by your attorney drafting an amendment to the trust. A codicil to your will or amendment to your trust must be signed and witnessed, following the same formalities that were used in the initial signing of the will or living trust.

5. If I become divorced, is my will revoked?

In some states – yes, it is revoked. In others, a divorce may have the effect of revoking only the provisions that relate to your former spouse. You should check with your attorney to find out what your state law says if you are contemplating divorce. Most of the time, your attorney will advise you to sign a new will after the divorce.

6. What is probate?

Probate is the court-supervised legal procedure that determines the validity of your will (if you have one). The probate judge supervises the gathering and inventory of your estate assets, payment of debts, taxes and administrative costs, and the distribution of your remaining assets to your beneficiaries (if you have a will) or if not-to next of kin as determined by state law. Probate of a smaller estate after one's death may be a simple process and not costly. However, probate of larger estates can involve significant time and costs. With proper planning, needless expenses can be reduced.

7. How can I avoid probate?

It takes careful estate planning. Some of the ways to avoid probate include jointly owned assets with rights of survivorship or creating a living trust that is funded during your lifetime. Also, assets such as IRAs, life insurance and pension plans can go directly to your designated beneficiary without probate. Since living trust assets avoid probate, individuals who value privacy place assets in their trust. Bank accounts and brokerage accounts can be transferred to individuals or charities in desired percentages by POD (Payable on Death) or TOD (Transfer on Death) designations added to those accounts. In some states, a beneficiary deed can transfer real estate to individuals or charities at your death without probate.

8. What is a will “contest”?

If a disgruntled relative seeks to have the will declared invalid by filing a lawsuit, a will contest occurs. The disgruntled relative usually feels that he or she did not get “their fair share” of your estate. He or she hopes to have the will declared invalid and thereby attempts to gain an increased share.

Some of the reasons that wills are contested include claims that the person was not of sound mind when the will was created, that the person did not understand what was being done, or that the person was under coercion or undue influence. Some states allow “self-proving” wills, to help discourage will contests. With a self-proving will, the signer and witnesses affirm that the will signing is valid and then the will or affidavit is notarized.

9. How can I leave a charitable bequest?

It can be as simple as stating in your will the amount or percentage value of your estate that you want to go to a favorite charity. A charity may also be named as a beneficiary on life insurance, Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and other retirement plans by listing the charity on a change of beneficiary form provided by the company. You can also list charities as a full or partial beneficiary of a bank or brokerage account through Payable on Death (POD) or Transfer on Death (TOD) designations. Real estate can also be transferred in some states by beneficiary deeds or by a life estate deed signed during your lifetime.

10. When should I update my will and estate plan?

About every two or three years, or sooner if any of the following occur:

- You move to another state
- Death of spouse or divorce
- Change in estate value or receiving an inheritance
- Incapacity or death of you or your spouse, Personal Representative, Guardian, Trustee or Agent
- Birth of children or grandchildren
- Change in charitable giving plans

The Shortest Day



Every day has 24 hours—1,440 minutes—86,400 seconds. Or does it? A short day is coming for all of us – a day when we will not reach the 86,400th second, and will pass on to our final reward.

We may have lived a long and useful life, filled with great memories. First, the “learning” years—youthful and vibrant time spent in school with classmates. Second, the “earning” years—that first job, building a career and meeting many friends and business associates. Third, the “retirement” years—when you finally have time to enjoy visits with all of your family and friends.

In many ways you have made a difference for family, friends and countless others during your lifetime. Yet there is one more part of life—the chance through your estate to provide for your family and your church and other ministries you care about. And so I invite you to consider this story.

John D. Rockefeller founded Standard Oil in 1870 and became the richest man on the planet. When he passed away, his accountant was asked,

*“How much of an estate did he leave?”
His accountant’s answer was: “All of it.”*

During his lifetime John D. Rockefeller accumulated many assets. He also gave

generously both during his lifetime and through his estate. But he also understood *Psalm 49:16-17*,

“Do not be overawed when a man grows rich, when the splendor of his house increases; for he will take nothing with him when he dies, his splendor will not descend with him (NIV).”

You also have accumulated and given. Yet in your estate the accumulation period is over. As was true with John D. Rockefeller, everything will be given to someone or for some purpose.

Thank you for your gifts to the Lord’s work during life. We know you have carefully thought and prayed about how much to give, to whom to give and how to give. Now we invite you to think about a “legacy of faith.”

We say “legacy of faith” because through this gift you live on – at least in the sense that stewardship of your estate will continue to bear fruit in helping others and reflect your testimony.

Many of our friends find great joy and satisfaction during life, knowing that their estate will someday help their family and impact the Kingdom. By completing this guide and a will with benefits for family and charity, you too can join in that satisfaction.

Only the Lord knows if your “Shortest Day” is coming soon or is many years into the future. But your chance to steward a legacy that touches many others can be here today. Thank you again for your prayerful consideration!



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