



EXECUTING YOUR WILL

Before signing your Will, ensure you read and understand the document. Make certain the document is printed with all required information.

To properly execute your Will you will have to be present with your chosen witnesses. Once everyone is together, identify the document as your Last Will and Testament to your witnesses. Proceed to initial the bottom of each page of the document but provide a full signature for the signing page of your Will. To be valid, you must sign the document with your usual cheque signing signature. The signing and the initialing of the pages must occur in the presence of your witnesses.

Remember that both of your witnesses should be competent adults who are not receiving anything under the terms of your Will, and are not the spouses of individuals receiving anything under your Will.

After you have signed and initialled your document in front of witnesses, your witnesses must acknowledge that they are witnessing your Last Will and Testament and then must initial each of the preceding pages (beside where you initialled) and sign and fill out the required information on the signing page of the Will. This must occur in your presence. You should then instruct your witnesses that they may have to appear before a court to verify that this process was completed and that you were competent at the time should the Will be contested after your passing.

Store your Will in a safe place where your executor or personal representative will be able to locate it. You can make photocopies of your Will, but the original (signed and witnessed) document will have to be produced before probate occurs. If you have older Wills, they should be destroyed.

If you get married, you should make a new Will. In most jurisdictions, Wills made prior to marriage become invalid on marriage. When other relevant changes occur in your life, you should review your Will to ensure it still reflects your wishes and is still valid. If the Will no longer reflects your wishes or is no longer valid, you should make a new Will.

If your needs are greater than a simple Will that allows you to identify your wishes without the need for complicated tax or trust issue then you may proceed with this service, however, should you need the more complex form of Will then a solicitor must be contacted so as to ensure that you receive the correct advice in these areas.