

Ethical Will Workbook

Sharing the Lessons of Your Life



Prepare Your Ethical Will in a Weekend

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Step 1: Ethical Will Format

Once you have decided that you are ready to prepare your Ethical Will, you will need to consider what format you want to write. Your legacy statement can be a letter, a list, a story, a lengthier collection of stories i.e. biography, a one-page essay, a poem, or something else. There are advantages and disadvantages to each format, as outlined below. Review these and choose the one that you are most comfortable with. Remember: the simpler it is, the easier it will be to finish.

FORMAT	ADVANTAGE	DISADVANTAGE	MY CHOICE
Letter	Conversational tone makes this a comfortable format.	May be difficult to decide whom to address it to; letters can ramble.	
List	Efficient format, easy to prepare	Doesn't allow for much background story or explanation.	
Biography/Memoir	Comprehensive description of significant events in your life.	May be a lengthy, time consuming process.	
One-page Essay	Allows you to quickly say what you need to say.	You may have more to say than can fit on one page.	
Poem	Can be a beautiful way to communicate how you feel.	Writing a poem can be challenging; using someone else's poem doesn't allow you to use your own words.	
Short story	Typically longer than a one-page essay and shorter than a biography, a short story allows you to focus on one particular event.	Deciding which event that best illustrates your beliefs may be difficult.	
Other:			

Here's another option: Use the completed *Ethical Will Workbook* as your final statement. Just complete it as best as you can, then sign and date it.

Exploring Your Core Principles: CAREER/WORK LIFE/PROFESSION

The reason(s) why I chose the _____ profession is/are:

What I have learned about myself from this career/job:

What I want you to know about my working life is:

Here is what I remember hearing my mother/father say about work: