

How to write your ethical will

What is an ethical will?

An ethical will is different from a normal will. A normal will concerns the distribution of assets and property. An ethical will is a bequest of your values. It can be a letter or series of letters to your loved ones letting them know how you want them to remember you, and how you remember them.

It can be created as part of an estate plan and used as an opportunity to reflect on your life and legacy. You can choose to update your ethical will at any time.

Thought-starters for your ethical will

1. What are the most important life lessons you've learned?
2. What values do you hold most dear, and why?
3. What family traditions do you hope will continue after you?
4. What achievements are you most proud of, and why?
5. What are your hopes and dreams for future generations of your family?
6. What mistakes have you made that you hope others can learn from?
7. Who has had the biggest influence on your life, and how?
8. What experiences have shaped you the most as a person?
9. What advice would you give to your younger self?
10. What do you want your family to know about your cultural or spiritual beliefs?
11. What life experiences do you wish for your loved ones?
12. How do you hope to be remembered?
13. What causes or issues are most important to you?
14. What family stories or personal anecdotes do you want to preserve?
15. What words of encouragement would you like to share with future generations?

Use these questions as a starting point to reflect and write something that is true to you. You do not need to answer all of these questions, just a few. Remember, there's no right or wrong way to create an ethical will - it's a reflection of what matters to you and your family.

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