

# Creating Ethical Wills

This guide provides steps for writing an ethical will, which is a document designed to pass on personal values, beliefs, and reflections. It is not legally binding but serves as a complement to the legal will, conveying emotional and ethical legacies.

## Step 1: **Reflect**

Spend time reflecting on your life experiences, values, and lessons learned. Consider the most important messages and beliefs you want to pass on.

## Step 2: **Outline**

Create an outline of your ethical will, organizing your thoughts into categories such as family history, personal beliefs, life lessons, and hopes for the future.

## Step 3: **Draft**

Begin writing the draft of your ethical will based on the outline. Write in your own voice and be sincere and direct as you share your personal messages.

## Step 4: **Review**

Review your first draft and make any adjustments or additions. It is often helpful to put the document aside for some time and then review it again with fresh eyes.

## Step 5: **Personalize**

Add personal touches to your ethical will such as quotes, stories, or important memories that highlight your legacy and values.

## Step 6: **Share**

Consider sharing your ethical will with trusted individuals for feedback. This could be family members, friends, or a professional advisor.

## Step 7: **Finalize**

Incorporate any feedback you've received and finalize your ethical will. Proofread it carefully for clarity and impact.

## Step 8: **Preserve**

Determine how you want to preserve and share your ethical will. You may choose to have it professionally printed, stored digitally, or kept with your legal documents.

## Step 9: **Present**

Decide on the appropriate time to present your ethical will to your loved ones, if desired. This could be during a significant family gathering or as part of the reading of your legal will.

# **General Notes**

## **Consult**

Consider consulting with a professional, such as a counselor or spiritual advisor, during the writing process for additional guidance and to ensure your ethical will encapsulates your true intentions.

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