

Wills

A checklist for making wills in India

Before making the will

- List out ALL your immovable properties;
- List out ALL your bank accounts, mutual funds, FD accounts, PPF/PF/EPF accounts, Government bonds/schemems, Post office savings etc.
- List out ALL your jewellery/fabrics/furniture or antiques - any such acquisition that is precious to you;
- Think about whom you want to give each of your bequests and in what proportion;
- Think about and decide how to deal with your dependants - persons who can act as guardians for minor children; executor of your will; care-taker of your pets etc.

After writing the will ...

- Ensure you sign and date it IN THE PRESENCE OF TWO WITNESSES;
- Ensure your witnesses sign and date the will, after your signature, in the presence of you and each other;
- If you are getting the will registered, collect documents for registration of the will, including Doctor's certificate; Fix an appointment for the same with the local Sub-Registrar's office;
- Once the will is registered/ or executed (if unregistered), keep it in a safe place and inform relevant people where to find it.

Writing/ Making the will

- Start with clearly mentioning your full name, age, complete present address;
- Mention you are in sound mind, and that this is your last will and testament, revoking any other make before this.
- Provide for funeral/obsequial expenses and any debts/liabilities/expenses to be discharged from the estate;
- Clearly mention your executor and his powers. In case he/she is a beneficiary under the will mention that their role as an executor isn't dependent upon and wouldn't affect their bequests under the will;
- Write out each bequest serially and separately, clearly identifying who will receive the bequests. If there are any conditions to be followed before the bequest can take effect, mention these conditions clearly.
- Add a residuary clause in the end.



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