Your Ethical Will
PERSONAL LEGACY LETTER
SUSAN TURNBULL

Tips for writing your legacy letter

Start today
If you were not here tomorrow, what is the most important thing you would not want left unsaid? Write it down – now you’ve begun.

Relax
You are not trying to write for the Pulitzer Prize. The letter is a gift of yourself, written for those you love, not for an imaginary panel passing judgment on your life or your writing.

Ask yourself:
What do I want to make sure my loved ones know and have in writing?

Consider:
Personal and philosophical topics: your history, your values, lessons learned Practical matters: explain decisions in your estate plan that might cause confusion; spell out your expectations for use of trusts. The future: what are your dearest hopes for those you are writing?

Take it topic by topic
Don’t try to write it all at once.

Be yourself
You cannot bequeath what you never owned to begin with.

Be careful
Be loving. The reach of this letter is unknowable.

Share it!
Let all parties enjoy the benefits of fuller communication in the present.