

# Your Ethical Will

PERSONAL LEGACY LETTER

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## ***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.