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## About Ethical Wills and Life Lessons

The term “Ethical Will” describes a legacy document. Its purpose is to share your values with surviving family members. It is not a legally enforceable document and is not used to convey property. It could, however, be the most important document you prepare if there are any concerns about passing on life lessons, preventing family disputes or caring for a disabled loved one after you’re unable to communicate with others or after your death.

Examples of common themes addressed in an Ethical Will are:

- Important personal values and beliefs
- Important spiritual values
- Hopes and blessings for future generations
- Life's lessons
- Love
- Forgiving others and asking for forgiveness

There are many ways to prepare an Ethical Will. First, you can do it in writing using a form or guide. There are many useful books available through retailers like Amazon.com that will lead you through the process. Alternatively, you could write a letter to your children or loved ones. Examples of Ethical Wills you might look at for this format are available at <http://www.ethicalwill.com/examples.html>.

Another way to prepare an Ethical Will is to turn on a tape recorder or a video recorder and start talking. We advise you to share important thoughts. But this format could also make it easier to share family history, humorous stories and other sage advice that should be handed down.

If you use the recording format, we also advise you to talk about those things your survivors need to know after you’re gone. In every family, duties and responsibilities are assigned. One spouse may take care of financial matters, while the other knows how to keep the home functioning properly. When a family member is lost, so is that specialized knowledge. You can use the recording to tell your surviving loved ones what they need to know to handle family matters when you can’t handle them for yourself.





































