Will template — England & Wales

Free blank template with plain-English notes. From OpenWill (openwill.app).

Please read first. This is a simple template, not legal advice, and OpenWill is not a law firm. It may not suit you if you own a business or property abroad, have complex family arrangements, want trusts, or may face inheritance tax. If in doubt, speak to a solicitor. In England and Wales a will must be signed in wet ink, with two witnesses present at the same time. Witnesses (and their husband, wife or civil partner) must not inherit under the will. Keep the signed original somewhere safe and tell your executors where it is — a scan or photo is not the original.

1. About me

I, [full name], of [full address], born [date of birth], revoke all earlier wills and codicils and declare this to be my last will.

Note: Use your full legal name and current address.

2. My executors

I appoint [name and address] and [name and address] to be my executors. If either cannot or will not act, I appoint [name and address].

Note: Executors deal with your estate. Choose people you trust; they can also be beneficiaries. Ask them first.

3. Guardians for my children (if any)

If my children are under 18 when I die and no one with parental responsibility survives me, I appoint [name and address] as guardian.

Note: Only needed if you have children under 18.

4. Gifts of specific items or money

I give [item or amount] to [name and address]. I give [item or amount] to [name and address].

Note: Describe items clearly so there is no doubt which one you mean.

5. The rest of my estate (the residue)

I give the rest of my estate, after debts, funeral and administration costs, to [name(s)] in equal shares. If any of them dies before me, their share passes to [name(s)].

Note: This is everything not given away above. Always say what happens if someone dies before you.

6. Funeral wishes (optional)

[For example: burial, cremation, or any wishes]

Note: These are not legally binding, but help your family.

7. Signing

Signed by me as my last will on [date], in the presence of both witnesses below, who were present at the same time and who then signed in my presence.

Your signature _____

Date _____

Witness 1

Signature _____

Full name _____

Address _____

_____

Occupation _____

Witness 2

Signature _____

Full name _____

Address _____

_____

Occupation _____

Before you sign — quick checks

[ ] You are 18 or over and making this will of your own free choice.
[ ] Both witnesses are adults who are not inheriting, and not married to or in a civil partnership with anyone inheriting.
[ ] You sign first, in ink, with both witnesses watching; then each witness signs while you watch.
[ ] Nothing is stapled, unstapled or written on afterwards. To change it, make a new will or a properly witnessed codicil.
[ ] Marriage or civil partnership usually cancels an existing will in England and Wales — review it after big life changes.
[ ] Store the original safely and tell your executors where it is. You can upload a scan to OpenWill so they know it exists, but the paper original is what counts.

Official guidance: gov.uk/make-will. Scotland and Northern Ireland have different rules. Planning only — OpenWill does not guarantee legal validity.