

Greypath e-Book

Wills, Death and Funerals

**A free guide to a most important
subject**

Greypath e-Book

Contents:

- **Wills**
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- **Funerals**

Wills

Wills are important.

If you do not make one, your estate will be divided by the State according to a strict formula which may not be as you might wish.

It is recommended that you seek the services of a solicitor in making a Will, especially if it is anything other than a very simple will. Solicitors may charge around A\$60 to set up your will.

We offer the information below, which is based on a simple commonly available will form. [Simple will kits ranging from \$1 to \$20 can be purchased from most newsagents in Australia].

[Click here for an on-line will making form \(USA\)](#) and for a useful national link in Australia <http://www.pt.nsw.gov.au/>

ABOUT WILLS

- A Will cannot be made in language too simple or concise;
- It must be written with ink, on paper or parchment, and if contained on one or more sheets, each sheet must be numbered and signed by both the person making the Will, [Testator (Male) or Testatrix (Female)], and Witnesses.
- If a Witness or their spouse has an interest in the Will, their claim to such interest is forfeited.
- Write the names of the beneficiaries and the executor in full with other descriptions such as relationships and addresses to correctly identify them.

- Obliteration or alterations of any sort in a Will ought, if possible, to be avoided; when of necessity made, they must be signed by the Testator / Testatrix and the Witnesses in the margin, or as near to the alteration as possible.
- Marriage after making a Will renders the Will void.
- Both Witnesses must sign their names and insert their addresses whilst in the presence of the Testator / Testatrix.
- It is advisable that all use the same pen,
- The Witnesses should be made aware that they may witness a completed Will without necessarily knowing the contents of it.
- Make sure its put in a safe place, where it can be found when required.

ENVELOPE FOR THE WILL

It is preferable to seal your will in a properly marked envelope along the following lines:

<p>This envelope contains</p> <p>The Last Will and Testament of</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Upon my decease I direct that this envelope be delivered to my Executor</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Signed.....</p> <p>Testator/Testatrix</p>

A Simple Will Form Looks Like This

This is the Last will and Testament

Of me

[Write your full name and address on these two lines]

Of

In the State of

I revoke all former wills and codicils made by me.

I appoint

[Write full name and address of Executor/s on these two lines]

.....

.....

Executor/s of this my will and direct that my Funeral and Testamentary expenses, and all of my debts, shall be paid as soon as conveniently possible after my decease.

I GIVE, devise and bequeath unto

.....

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[If all of this space is not used cancel the unused parts with a diagonal line. If more room is need add a sheet but remember to have each sheet numbered and signed as above].

IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto
Set my hand this..... day of

.....

.....
[Signature of Testator]

SIGNED by the abovementioned Testator as and for* last Will in
the presence of us, both being present at the same time, who at*
request in.....* presence and in the presence of each other, have
hereunto subscribed our names as Witnesses.

- Write his or her each time

.....
(1st witness)

.....
(Address)

.....
(Occupation)

.....
(2nd witness)

.....
(Address)

.....
(Occupation)

POST DEATH CHECKLIST

This checklist may be useful for you when someone dies.

First 24 hours. Most people do not die at home these days. For those that do, however, the first thing to do is to phone the persons doctor. The doctor will explain what steps are to be taken to get a death certificate. You cannot make funeral arrangements without a signed death certificate.

This form must be lodged at the State Department known as the Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages. Your funeral director will usually organise to lodge the Death Certificate for you, and to provide a copy for the next of kin.

Find the will if there is one. Depending on the State or Territory a '**Grant of Probate**' may be required for estates in excess of \$10 000. This is a court order that says that the Will is the final and valid will of the person who has died.

Organise The Funeral. Funeral directors can do all of this for you, including moving the body, burial or cremation certificates, newspaper notices, flowers and religious services. If you think there may be a pre-paid funeral or funeral bonds, you should check with the executor of the will, and perhaps local funeral directors to see if they have any such record.

Who to notify when someone dies. This excellent check list is supplied by Centrelink and they have an associated booklet entitled '*Are you needing help after someone has died?*' It should be compiled as a guide as to what must be done, and also to carry all of the information that you will need to refer to.

Person or Organisation to be contacted	Contact person phone number & address	Details of person who died [for example bank account numbers medicare number etc	Notified of death yes/no
Family and Friends			
Doctor			
Executor			
Minister of Religion			
Preferred Funeral Director			
Prepaid funeral Yes/No			
Funeral bond			

Yes/No			
Funeral insurance Yes/No			
Centrelink			
Dept of Veterans Affairs			
Foreign Pensions			
Employer			
Super Fund			
Clubs			
Banks Credit Unions etc			
Public trustee			
Credit Card . Hire Purchase			
Insurance company			
Hospital social worker, dentist, podiatrist etc			
Health benefits fund			
Medicare			
Landlord			
Power authority/s Electricity Gas Water			
Council			
Meals on wheels			
Vehicle registration and license			
Electoral office			
Accountant			
Tax office			
Professional bodies			
Public services/library			
Post office			

It may be easier for you to use a simple standard letter to notify people as follows:

I wish to notify you of the death of :

Mr/Mrs/Ms.....
(surname)

.....
(given names)

Date of Birth.....

Street Address.....

Suburb.....State.....Post code.....

Date of Death
.....



FUNERALS

This section taken from the Le Pine Funeral Services booklet, *All You Need To Know About Funerals*.

What needs to be done immediately.

By law a certificate to confirm the death must be signed by a doctor. This called a "death certificate". Until this occurs the funeral director can not remove the deceased to their funeral home.

If the death occurs at home, it is up to you to call the doctor. If at a nursing home or hospital, others will do so.

In cases where the doctor is unable to determine the cause of death, it is necessary for the coroner to be advised, The police do this. The coroner usually become involved where people have not seen a doctor for the last three months, suicides, accidental death, homicides, poisoning, drug overdose etc.

A funeral company will also provide the following services:

- Transfer of the deceased.
- Personal consultation regarding general funeral arrangements and various service options.
- Liaison with cemetery etc.
- Church, Chapel and other requirements
- Registration of the Death
- Consulting with Clergy.
- Advice on wording and placement of press notices.
- Supply of hearse, viewing facilities etc.
- Supply of cars to transport family.
- Placement and collection of floral tribute and other cards and record book
- And much more

Centrelink have a support programme.

Married pensioners continue to receive their spouses pension for a further 14 weeks

Single pensioners estates receive one more payment.

Carers Pension Holders are entitled to a lump sum payment of 14 weeks pension payment.

Sole parents are entitled to a further 14 weeks following death and this is paid in a lump sum.

Other Allowances

There are other allowances payable under various circumstances, and they include:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Insurance companies
Transport Accident Commission (Vic)
Some private health funds
Unions
Victims compensation NSW, VIC, ACT, WA, SA, QLD.

We hope that this information has been of benefit to you and suggest that you approach Le Pine or a similar company for a more comprehensive booklet.

This is the end of this e-book produced to assist our fellow seniors. If you have useful information to add please let us know by email to manager@greypath.com. All advice offered here is just that, and should be taken at your own judgment and risk. We are not an authority on these matters.