



Legacy
For Life

Write your will with family & charity in mind

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

UHNITED to bring you
the best care

Please note any information provided in this guide should be considered general in nature and should not be relied upon as a substitute for professional advice. It is recommended that users seek the guidance of a legal professional before making any decision.

Welcome to the guide to writing your will with heart! Because a will is more than just a legal document... it's an expression of love, and a powerful way to make change in this world.

UHN Foundation is one of three fundraising arms of University Health Network (UHN), supporting Toronto General Hospital, Toronto Western Hospital, Toronto Rehab and The Michener Institute of Education.

Donor support is critical to upholding the excellence in patient care that UHN is known for and driving innovation – helping recruit and train the brightest medical minds from around the world, develop new treatments for disease, and advance bold medical research.

Writing a will is a series of choices and we've made it simple for you. Use this guide to gather the building blocks you'll need to create a will that cares for your family and leaves a lasting impact.

Over the following pages, our goal is to help you answer the following questions:

- 1** Who are the important people in my life? Who do I need to take care of?

- 2** Would I like to include a gift to charity in my will?

- 3** What do I have to give? How am I going to divide it?

- 4** Who is going to put my will together? Who will be responsible for carrying out my wishes?

It's not unusual to feel stuck. Try these tips to make the process more manageable:

- Break down tasks into bite sized chunks.
- Set a reminder to complete one task at a time.
- Talk to a friend or family member about their experience creating their will.



Key insight:

You don't need all the answers.

Write your will for where you are in life now, then update it as things change. The most important thing is to get started so the people you love, and the things you care about, are protected.

1 Think about the important people in your life



Who do you want to support in your will? Who will inherit the bulk of your property? (Remember: you can include as many beneficiaries as you wish, and you'll want to think of a few back-up beneficiaries too.)

Beneficiary's legal name

Beneficiary's legal name

Beneficiary's legal name

Beneficiary's legal name

Who will take care of your minor children, pets or dependants in case something happens to you (and your partner, if applicable)?

Guardian's legal name

Have you let them know?
Have they agreed?

Yes No

Having a hard time choosing a guardian for your dependants? Try these tips:

- Speak to friends to see what they've done.
- Make a list of candidates and weigh the pros & cons.
- Spend some quality time with potential candidates in their home.



Things to consider when choosing a guardian:

- Someone who shares your values.
- Someone dependable, who can provide a stable environment.
- A loving caretaker, who your dependants know and trust.
- The most seamless transition for your dependants.
- Communication with potential guardians is important. If you haven't spoken with them yet, it's never too soon to open the conversation.

2

Think about the impact you want to make in this world



What issues or causes are most important to you?

What kind of change would you like to see happen?

Which charities tackling these issues would you want to partner with?

Explore charities that align with your values and see the difference you can make. If you choose UHN Foundation, you can support UHN's highest priority needs or any area of care that has touched you or your loved ones.

Name the charities you want to include in your will:

Legal name

Legal name

Charity registration number

Charity registration number

For example:

Legal name:

UHN Foundation

Registered Canadian Charitable

Organization Number:

12386 4068 RR0001



Important considerations:

When you include a charity in your will, try not to get too specific with your donation. Who knows what will be needed in the future? Most legal professionals will recommend that you make your gift general in nature.

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Take stock of what you have



What assets do you own?

Real estate	Approx. \$
Cash savings (In bank accounts for example)	Approx. \$
Investments (RRSP, TFSA, RESP, stocks, etc.)	Approx. \$
Vehicles	Approx. \$
Your business	Approx. \$
Pension plan	Approx. \$
Insurance policies	Approx. \$
Valuable property (Jewelry, art, collectibles, etc.)	Approx. \$
Total: _____	

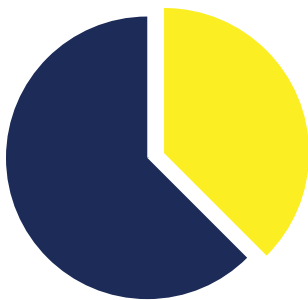
Do you have any debt?

Mortgage (And/or home equity line of credit)	Approx. \$
Consumer debt (Credit card bill, installment payments, etc.)	Approx. \$
Vehicle loans	Approx. \$
Student loans	Approx. \$
Business loans	Approx. \$
Total: _____	



Key insight:

Don't worry about exact numbers or future values. Your assets and debt will change over time. What's important is that you get a sense of the pie so you can decide how you want to split it.



How much would you like your inheritors to receive?

(Think about any specific gifts you'd like to make like valuable heirlooms.)

% of total: % (approx.: \$)

How much will go to the charities you've chosen?

% of total: % (approx.: \$)

Consider a residual bequest: a gift of what remains in your estate after all debts, taxes, and expenses have been settled, and any specific gifts have been distributed.

A donation in your will can help save on taxes!

Chances are, when you die, your “estate” will get a hefty tax bill. That’s because all your assets will be turned into income (except those transferred to a spouse) and taxed accordingly. Good news! That donation you plan to leave in your will? It will result in a charitable tax credit that can seriously lower those taxes...



Want to learn practical ways to reduce taxes and protect your estate?

Join us for our virtual **Income Tax Reduction & Estate Tax Elimination** presentation.

In this session you will learn:

- To minimize or even **eliminate taxes** on your estate.
- To **avoid double taxation** on your “red” retirement accounts.
- To **bypass** paying upfront **capital gains taxes** when selling your investments.
- To convert assets into an **income you can’t outlive** and leave a **lasting legacy**.
- How our government wants you to **save taxes** and **leave more to charity**.

This virtual event will be held **Tuesday, May 5, 2026** from **10:30 – 11:30 am**.

Get expert insights that could make a big difference for you and your family.

Visit UHNfoundation.ca/taxseminar to learn more and RSVP.

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Putting it all together



Who is going to help you draft your legal documents?

I'd like advice on how to divide my estate, save on taxes, etc.

I have a complicated situation, i.e. blended family, dependants with special needs, assets outside of Canada, etc.

I live in Quebec.

I have a pretty straightforward situation.

If you checked any of the first three boxes, it's a good idea to use a lawyer (or notary in QC or BC) to draft your will. If not, you may also choose a trusted online will platform. UHN Foundation has partnered with Epilogue Wills to help make the process easy for you. We're pleased to offer a special discount of 20% off your will at epiloguewills.com/give/uhn

Who will administer your estate and carry out your wishes when you die?

Executor's legal name

Have you let them know? Have they agreed?

Yes No



Important considerations:

Though not officially part of the will, many people include a Power of Attorney and Personal Directive among their legal documents. This ensures there is someone in place to take care of you and your affairs if you're ever incapacitated, and your end of life wishes are well laid out. Ask your professional advisor or lawyer to guide you through this process.

You did it!

You've done all the hard work. You now have all the basics to get your legal documents drafted. Once completed, you can feel good knowing your family is taken care of and your wishes for your legacy are documented.

A few things you'll want to do when you have your will:

DONE

Let your executor know where your will is stored. Include bank information, digital passwords and any other important information.

Tell your family about your plans. It's best not to leave any surprises.

Tell your charities about your future gift so that it will be used in the way that you want. Don't worry, you won't be held to any commitment.

Set a reminder to review your will in five years to make sure it's up to date.

You can always call a member of our

Estate Giving team at UHN Foundation:  legacy@uhnfoundation.ca or  416-603-5300



This Guide has been adapted for UHN Foundation in partnership with Will Power. Will Power is a national public education campaign showing Canadians how to create positive change through their wills. Visit willpower.ca to learn more.