

# Last Will and Testament in Pennsylvania

## Sample 1

[Your Name]

[Address]

[City, State ZIP]

[Date]

I, [Your Name], residing in the State of Pennsylvania, hereby declare that this is my Last Will and Testament, and I revoke all previous wills and codicils made by me.

I appoint [Name of Executor/Personal Representative] as the Executor/Personal Representative of my estate. If [Name of Executor/Personal Representative] is unable or unwilling to serve as Executor/Personal Representative, I appoint [Alternative Executor/Personal Representative's Name] as the alternative Executor/Personal Representative.

I direct my Executor/Personal Representative to pay all my debts, funeral expenses, and the expenses of administering my estate from my estate assets, as soon as reasonably practicable after my death.

I give, devise, and bequeath my estate, real and personal, and wherever located, to the following beneficiaries in the following manner:

[Beneficiary's Name]: [Specific Bequest or Percentage Share of Estate]

If any of the beneficiaries predecease me, their share shall pass to their surviving descendants per stirpes, and if none survive, then to the remaining beneficiaries in equal shares.

If I have any minor children or dependents at the time of my death, I nominate [Guardian's Name] to serve as their guardian. If [Guardian's Name] is unable or unwilling to serve as guardian, I nominate [Alternative Guardian's Name] as the alternative guardian.

I give, devise, and bequeath all the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, real and personal, and wherever located, to [Name of Residuary Beneficiary] in equal shares. My Executor/Personal Representative shall have full authority and power to sell, lease, mortgage, or otherwise dispose of any of my estate assets, including real property, at private or public

sale, for cash or on credit, and to execute and deliver all necessary instruments of conveyance or transfer.

My Executor/Personal Representative shall serve without bond, and no bond shall be required of them. This Last Will and Testament shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Pennsylvania. I revoke all prior wills and codicils made by me.

If any provision of this Last Will and Testament is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect. This Last Will and Testament contains the entire understanding of the parties hereto and supersedes all prior and contemporaneous agreements and understandings, whether oral or written, relating to the subject matter hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this [Date] day of [Month], [Year].

[Your Signature]

[Your Printed Name]

[Witness 1 Signature]

[Witness 1 Printed Name]

[Address]

[City, State ZIP]

[Witness 2 Signature]

[Witness 2 Printed Name]

[Address]

[City, State ZIP]

## Pennsylvania Last Will and Testament of

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, resident in the City of \_\_\_\_\_,  
County of \_\_\_\_\_, State of Pennsylvania, being of sound mind, not  
acting under duress or undue influence, and fully understanding the nature and extent  
of all my property and of this disposition thereof, do hereby make, publish, and declare  
this document to be my Last Will and Testament, and hereby revoke any and all other  
wills and codicils heretofore made by me.

### I. EXPENSES & TAXES

I direct that all my debts, and expenses of my last illness, funeral, and burial, be paid as  
soon after my death as may be reasonably convenient, and I hereby authorize my  
Personal Representative, hereinafter appointed, to settle and discharge, in his or her  
absolute discretion, any claims made against my estate.

I further direct that my Personal Representative shall pay out of my estate any and all  
estate and inheritance taxes payable by reason of my death in respect of all items  
included in the computation of such taxes, whether passing under this Will or otherwise.  
Said taxes shall be paid by my Personal Representative as if such taxes were my debts  
without recovery of any part of such tax payments from anyone who receives any item  
included in such computation.

### II. PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

I nominate and appoint \_\_\_\_\_, of  
\_\_\_\_\_, County of \_\_\_\_\_, State of  
\_\_\_\_\_ as Personal Representative of my estate and I  
request that (he/she) be appointed temporary Personal Representative if (he/she)  
applies. If my Personal Representative fails or ceases to so serve, then I nominate  
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, County of  
\_\_\_\_\_, State of \_\_\_\_\_ to serve.

### III. DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY

I devise and bequeath my property, both real and personal and wherever situated, as  
follows:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Beneficiary

\_\_\_\_\_ [full name], currently of \_\_\_\_\_  
[address], as my \_\_\_\_\_ [relation] whose last four (4) digits of their  
Social Security Number (SSN) are xxx-xx-\_\_\_\_ with the following property:

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- B. To sell and to grant options to purchase all or any part of my estate, both real and personal, at any time, at public or private sale, for consideration, whether or not the highest possible consideration, and upon terms, including credit, as my Personal Representative deems advisable, and to execute, acknowledge, and deliver deeds or other instruments in connection therewith.
- C. To lease any real estate for terms and conditions as my Personal Representative deems advisable, including the granting of options to renew, options to extend the term or terms, and options to purchase.
- D. To pay, compromise, settle or otherwise adjust any claims, including taxes, asserted in favor of or against me, my estate or my Personal Representative.
- E. To make any separation into shares in whole or in part in kind and at values determined by my Personal Representative, with or without regard to tax basis, and to allocate different kinds and disproportionate amounts of property and undivided interests in property among the shares.
- F. To make such elections under the tax laws as my Personal Representative shall deem appropriate, including elections with respect to qualified terminable interest property, exemptions and the use of deductions as income tax or estate tax deductions, and to determine whether to make any adjustments between income and principal on account of any election so made.
- G. To make any elections permitted under any pension, profit sharing, employee stock ownership or other benefit plan.
- H. To employ others in connection with the administration of my estate, including legal counsel, investment advisors, brokers, accountants and agents and to pay reasonable compensation in addition to my Personal Representative's compensation.
- I. To vote any shares of stock or other securities in person or by proxy; to assert or waive any stockholder's rights or privilege to subscribe for or otherwise acquire additional stock; to deposit securities in any voting trust or with any committee.
- J. To borrow and to pledge or mortgage any property as collateral, and to make secured or unsecured loans. My Personal Representative is specifically authorized to make loans without interest to any beneficiary hereunder. No individual or entity loaning property to my Personal Representative or trustee shall be held to see to the application of such property.
- K. My Personal Representative shall also in his or her absolute discretion determine the allocation of any GST exemption available to me at my death to property passing under this Will or otherwise. The determination of my Personal Representative with respect to any elections or allocation, if made or taken in good faith, shall be binding upon all affected.

## **VII. CONTESTING BENEFICIARY**

If any beneficiary under this Will, or any trust herein mentioned, contests or attacks this Will or any of its provisions, any share or interest in my estate given to that contesting beneficiary under this Will is revoked and shall be disposed of in the same manner provided herein as if that contesting beneficiary had predeceased me.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Beneficiary**

\_\_\_\_\_ [full name], currently of \_\_\_\_\_  
[address], as my \_\_\_\_\_ [relation] whose last four (4) digits of their  
Social Security Number (SSN) are xxx-xx-\_\_\_\_\_ with the following property:

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**3<sup>rd</sup> Beneficiary**

\_\_\_\_\_ [full name], currently of \_\_\_\_\_  
[address], as my \_\_\_\_\_ [relation] whose last four (4) digits of their  
Social Security Number (SSN) are xxx-xx-\_\_\_\_\_ with the following property:

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If any of my beneficiaries have pre-deceased me, then any property that they would have received if they had not pre-deceased me shall be distributed in equal shares to the remaining beneficiaries.

If any of my property cannot be readily sold and distributed, then it may be donated to any charitable organization or organizations of my Personal Representative's choice. If any property cannot be readily sold or donated, my Personal Representative may, without liability, dispose of such property as my Personal Representative may deem appropriate. I authorize my Personal Representative to pay as an administration expense of my estate the expense of selling, advertising for sale, packing, shipping, insuring and delivering such property.

**IV. OMISSION**

Except to the extent that I have included them in this Will, I have intentionally, and not as a result of any mistake or inadvertence, omitted in this Will to provide for any family members and/or issue of mine, if any, however defined by law, presently living or hereafter born or adopted.

**V. BOND**

No bond shall be required of any fiduciary serving hereunder, whether or not specifically named in this Will, or if a bond is required by law, then no surety will be required on such bond.

**VI. DISCRETIONARY POWERS OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

My Personal Representative, shall have and may exercise the following discretionary powers in addition to any common law or statutory powers without the necessity of court license or approval:

- A. To retain for whatever period my Personal Representative deems advisable any property, including property owned by me at my death, and to invest and reinvest in any property, both real and personal, regardless of whether any particular investment would be proper for a Personal Representative and regardless of the extent of diversification of the assets held hereunder.

**VIII. GUARDIAN AD LITEM NOT REQUIRED**

I direct that the representation by a guardian ad litem of the interests of persons unborn, unascertained or legally incompetent to act in proceedings for the allowance of accounts hereunder be dispensed with to the extent permitted by law.

**IX. GENDER**

Whenever the context permits, the term "Personal Representative" shall include "Executor" and "Administrator," the use of a particular gender shall include any other gender, and references to the singular or the plural shall be interchangeable. All references to the Internal Revenue Code shall mean the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or any successor Code. All references to estate taxes shall include inheritance and other death taxes.

**X. ASSIGNMENT**

The interest of any beneficiary in this Will, shall not be alienable, assignable, attachable, transferable nor paid by way of anticipation, nor in compliance with any order, assignment or covenant and shall not be applied to, or held liable for, any of their debts or obligations either in law or equity and shall not in any event pass to his, her, or their assignee under any instrument or under any insolvency or bankruptcy law, and shall not be subject to the interference or control of creditors, spouses or others.

**XI. GOVERNING LAW**

This document shall be governed by the laws of the State of Pennsylvania.

**XII. BINDING ARRANGEMENT**

Any decision by my Personal Representative with respect to any discretionary power hereunder shall be final and binding on all persons interested. Unless due to my Executor's own willful default or gross negligence, no Executor shall be liable for said Executor's acts or omissions or those of any co-Executor or prior Executor.

I, the undersigned \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby declare that I sign and execute this instrument as my last Will, that I sign it willingly in the presence of each of the undersigned witnesses, and that I execute it as my free and voluntary act for the purposes herein expressed, on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Testator Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Testator (Printed Name)

The foregoing instrument, was on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_, subscribed on each page and at the end thereof by \_\_\_\_\_, the above-named Testator, and by (him/her) signed, sealed, published and declared to be (his/her) LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT, in the presence of us and each of us, who

thereupon, at (his/her) request, in (his/her) presence, and in the presence of each other, have hereunto subscribed our names as attesting witnesses thereto.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

**TESTAMENTARY AFFIDAVIT**

STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_, SS.

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, testator, \_\_\_\_\_, witness and \_\_\_\_\_, witness, known to me to be the testator and the witnesses, respectively, whose names are signed to the attached or foregoing instrument, and, all of these persons being by me duly sworn, the testator declared to me and to the witnesses in my presence that the instrument is the testator's last will and that the testator has willingly signed or directed another to sign for him/her, and that the testator executed it as the testator's free and voluntary act for the purposes therein expressed; and each of the witnesses stated to me, in the presence of the testator, that they signed the will as witnesses and that to the best of their knowledge the testator was eighteen (18) years of age or over, of sound mind and under no constraint or undue influence.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Testator Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature

Subscribed and sworn to before me by the said testator and the said witnesses, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My Commission expires: