

How to use this BC will template

1. Check it fits.

It is for simple estates. Get advice instead if you have a blended family, plan to leave out a spouse or child, support someone on disability benefits, own a business or property outside BC, or want a trust beyond age 19.

2. Fill in every line.

Type in this PDF or print it and use ink. Write “none” or “not applicable” on lines you don’t use. Leave nothing blank for later.

3. Don’t change the printed wording.

If you cross out or hand-write anything, you and both witnesses must initial beside it when you sign (WESA s.54).

4. Remove this page.

Print the 3 will pages single-sided and keep them together. Don’t staple anything else to them.

5. Sign with two witnesses at the same time.

Each witness must be 19 or older. A gift to a witness or a witness’s spouse is void, so choose people who get nothing under the will. Sign at the end while both watch; then each witness signs while you watch (WESA ss.37, 40, 43).

6. Initial every page.

You and both witnesses initial the footer of each page, so no page can be swapped later.

7. Store it and say where it is.

Keep the signed original somewhere safe and tell your executor. You can file an optional wills notice with BC Vital Statistics (form VSA 531, \$17) so the will can be found.

8. Review it when life changes.

Separation cancels gifts to the former spouse (WESA s.56). Marriage, a new child, a move or an executor who can’t act are also reasons to make a new will.

WILL OF _____ full legal name

1. Who I am

I, _____, of _____, British
full legal name city or town
Columbia, make this will.

2. Earlier wills

I revoke all wills and codicils I have made before this will.

3. My executor

I appoint _____ of _____ as executor
name city or town
and trustee of this will. If that person dies before me, or is unable or unwilling to act or to continue to act, I appoint _____ of _____ as
name of backup city or town
executor and trustee instead. In this will, "my executor" means whoever is acting as executor and trustee at the time.

4. Guardian of my children

If I die while I am a guardian of a child under 19, I appoint
_____ of _____ as that child's
name, or "not applicable" city or town
guardian. If that person dies before me, or is unable or unwilling to act, I appoint
_____ of _____ instead.
name of backup city or town

5. Gifts of particular things

I give the following, each to the person named, if that person survives me:

- (a) _____ to _____
item or amount, or "none" person
- (b) _____ to _____
item or amount, or "none" person
- (c) _____ to _____
item or amount, or "none" person

If a person named in this section does not survive me, that gift becomes part of the residue of my estate.

6. The rest of my estate

My executor is to pay my debts, my funeral expenses, the expenses of administering my estate and any taxes payable because of my death. My executor is to give everything that remains, including anything this will does not otherwise give away (the “residue”), as follows:

(a) to _____, if that person survives me;
name

(b) if that person does not survive me, in equal shares to:

_____.
names, separated by commas

If a person named in (b) does not survive me, their share goes in equal shares to their children who survive me. If they leave no child who survives me, their share is added equally to the shares of the others named in (b) who survive me.

7. Beneficiaries under 19

If a person becomes entitled to any part of my estate before reaching 19 years of age, my executor is to hold that part in trust for the person until they reach 19. Until then, my executor may use any of the income or capital of that part for the person’s care, education or benefit, and is to add any unused income to that part.

8. Surviving me

In this will, a person “survives me” only if they are alive 30 days after my death.

9. My executor's powers

My executor may sell or keep any property of my estate, and may give property to a beneficiary as it is rather than in cash, at a value my executor considers fair. These powers are in addition to the powers the law gives executors and trustees.

Signing

I have signed this will, which has 3 pages, on the date and at the place written below.

Date: _____ Place: _____ , British Columbia

Signature of the will-maker

Signed by the will-maker in the presence of both of us, who were present at the same time. Each of us then signed below in the will-maker's presence.

Signature of witness 1

Signature of witness 2

witness 1: full name (printed)

witness 2: full name (printed)

address

address

city or town, postal code

city or town, postal code

Initials: will-maker _____ witness _____ witness _____