

BEFORE YOU SIGN THE WILL: THE QUESTIONS THAT MATTER MOST

WHO?

- Who are the key individuals in your estate plan, and have you notified them? See worksheet on back for helpful descriptions.
- How much do you want to leave to your heirs? Do you give equally to each - why or why not? Is the next steward of your wealth prepared to handle it wisely and generously?
- Which of your assets are most strategic to give to charity versus your heirs?

WHAT?

- Do you have a list of everything you own and owe on one sheet of paper? What is your plan for assets that are not easily divisible, like a vacation home or partnership?
- Does anyone other than you know your financial situation, your document location, etc.?
- Do you have specific personal items you want specific people to receive?

HOW?

- What tools and techniques is your adviser recommending and do you understand them?
- Are you using tax-smart strategies (e.g. Donor Advised Funds, Qualified Charitable Distributions, Charitable Remainder Trusts) and maximizing your giving desires?
- Are there inconsistencies between your will, asset titling, and beneficiary designations?

WHEN?

- Do you give to your heirs/charities immediately at death or over time in a trust?
- Are there ministries you want to support now versus later?
- Do you have clear instructions for incapacity or illness, not just death?

For more information:

BlueTrust

V. Grace Moore, CFP®, CKA®
Private Wealth Advisor
grace.moore@bluetrust.com
410.891.2900

To discuss a legacy gift to Five Talents:



Lillian Pinto de Sa
Director of Development
lillian.pintodesa@fivetalents.org
703.227.7166 ext. 9

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General Estate Roles & Responsibilities

	Name	General Description of Role & Responsibility
Executor	Primary	This position is typically a 9-12 month commitment filled by the person who settles your estate. They do not have to be a professional as they will likely hire a lawyer and CPA to assist. The executor is liable to the IRS for filing the estate tax return (Form 706) and estate income tax return (Form 1041). You may choose a trusted family member, friend, or advisor as your primary executor and designate a backup. Co-executors can serve.
	First Alternate	
	Second Alternate	
Guardian	Primary	A person who you trust to oversee the support of your children until they reach the age of majority. Consider any special provisions you would want to provide for whomever is the guardian (i.e., place of residence, compensation, moving expenses, etc.).
	First Alternate	
	Second Alternate	
Trustee	Primary	Select someone whose judgment you trust, and feel would represent you well with regards to your values, relating with your children, and overseeing funds and distribution decisions for their benefit. This person does not have to be a professional financial or legal expert, they can hire any assistance they may need in making decisions. Designate sole or co-trustees as backups to serve during incapacity or after your death.
	First Alternate	
	Second Alternate	
Power of Attorney	Primary	This person has the direct or contingent power to make all financial and administrative decisions for you if you are no longer able to make them while living. You can designate a trusted individual as primary POA and then designate a backup. You can have co-agents serve.
	First Alternate	
Healthcare (POA)	Primary	Who do you want to have power to make health-care related decisions for you when you are no longer able to make them? You may appoint a trusted individual as your primary POA and designate a backup. You can have co-agents serve.
	First Alternate	

Blue Trust does not give legal advice. We recommend that individuals consult with a professional familiar with their particular situation before taking any action. CAS00001578-04-25