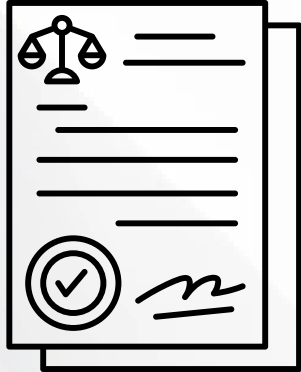


WILLS AND POWER OF ATTORNEY



WILLS

A will is a legal document that states your instructions for what should happen to your estate (property) after you die. This includes your assets (what you own) and liabilities (what you owe.)

It names a person (called an estate trustee) to carry out the terms of your will. A will takes effect after your death.

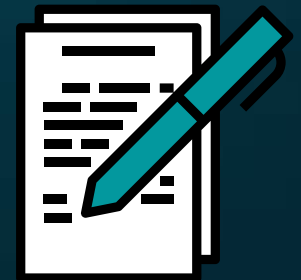
It is not a requirement that you have a will, but if you do not have one, the laws of your province or territory will determine how your estate is divided. It's a good idea that you seek professional legal help to make a will to ensure that all your documents are prepared and witnessed appropriately.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

A Power of Attorney is a legal document that gives someone else the power to act on your behalf.

There are two types of in Ontario:

- Continuing Power of Attorney for Property
- Power of Attorney for Personal Care



TWO TYPES OF POWERS OF ATTORNEY

A **Continuing Power of Attorney for Property** is a legal document that lets you appoint an attorney to make financial and other property decisions for you. An attorney is **not** a lawyer but a person that you trust to make decisions and manage your property on your behalf. Depending on how the Power of Attorney is written, your attorney may have authority to:

- 1) act for you both when you are capable and when you are mentally incapable; **or**
- 2) act only when you have been found mentally incapable of managing your property/finances in accordance with the law

A **Power of Attorney for Personal Care** is a document in which you name someone to become your attorney (someone you trust) to make personal care decisions on your behalf if you become mentally incapable of making them yourself. Personal care decisions refer to decisions about your health care and medical treatment, diet, housing, clothing, hygiene and safety.

WHERE DO I FIND A LAWYER?

LAW SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

Visit www.lso.ca/home-to-find-a-lawyer or call **1-855-947-5255** or paralegal who can assist you.

WATERLOO REGION LAW ASSOCIATION

Visit www.waterloolaw.org to search for Wills and Estates lawyers in the Member Directory.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

STEPS TO JUSTICE

Visit www.stepstojustice.ca for step-by-step information about Wills and Powers of Attorney. They also have a Guided Pathway to make your own will and Power of Attorney documents.

The information provided is reliable, practical, and easy to understand and will be able to answer most questions that you may have.

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC GUARDIAN AND TRUSTEE

visit www.ontario.ca/page/office-public-guardian-and-trustee to learn how the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee safeguards the legal, personal and financial interests of specific Ontarians and their estates.

PRO BONO ONTARIO

Call Pro Bono Ontario at **1-855-255-7256** or visit www.probonoontario.org/wills-and-estates

POWER OF ATTORNEY KIT

The Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee has produced a Power of Attorney Kit that will help you appoint the person you want to make decisions for you when you are no longer able to do so for yourself. Visit www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/family/pgt/poakit.php