

Wills and Enduring Powers of Attorney

Simple answers for the big questions



Wills

Your life Your legacy

Take a moment to think about how far you've come. The friends that are now family. The house that's become a home. Maybe even the rugby club you've supported since day one. These are the things in life that truly matter. This is your legacy, and we empower New Zealanders, like you, to protect it.

Even if you already have a will, it's a good idea to keep it updated when life changes. You might have moved house, received an inheritance or entered into a new relationship. It's about ensuring your legacy is true to you and what you hold dear.

If it's important to you, say it with a will.

You've built a life around the things and people that matter most. Here's your opportunity to preserve your legacy and share it with those who will pick up where you left off.

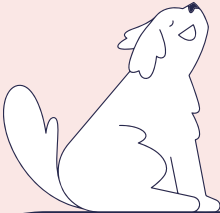
Friends and family

You take good care of your kids and pets. Think about who might step up and take over if needed.



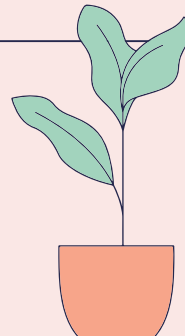
Assets

An asset is anything that you own that holds value. It doesn't need to be much. In fact, most people have something worth sharing. It could be cash, property, shares or investments.



Mementos

What have you kept safe all these years that needs someone else to hold onto? This could be a vinyl collection, photo albums, or maybe even a wedding dress.



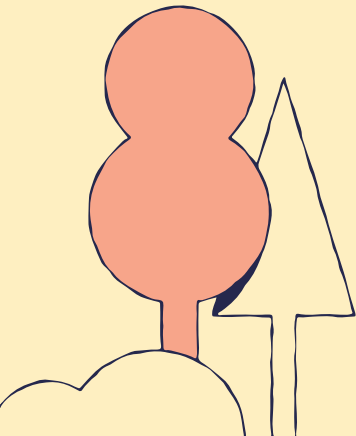
Funeral

Have you considered what your wishes are following your death? Take the stress out of big decisions for your loved ones by opting for cremation or burial. You might even have a few special requests for a memorable funeral.



Think outside the box

Writing your will is your opportunity to bring your legacy to life for your loved ones, and consider how you can leave a lasting impression with those closest to you.



What if you donated to the charity of your choice?

What if you curated the music playlist for your own funeral?

What if your artwork was put on a display at a local community hall?

What if you set aside university money for your kids?

What if you pre-paid your dog's treats to help their new guardian?

Statement of Wishes

This is a service Public Trust offers to accompany your will. It's our way of helping you hand over any special instructions for your loved ones. It not only provides guidance for your executor, but justifies how you've structured your will, perhaps explaining why people have been included or excluded. This is easy to complete online or recorded as a Statement to Accompany when visiting us in person. This ensures your wishes are recorded accurately and are heard if anyone challenges your will.



Writing a will with Public Trust

01

Have a think

What special requests do you have for your friends and family? Consider your assets and what you might want to leave behind. It could take as little as 25 minutes online.

02

Write your will

It's quick and easy to write your will online. Otherwise, feel free to make an appointment at one of our 24 customer centres. One of our experts will guide you through the entire process and answer any questions you may have.

03

Review and approval

If you visit us in person, we'll prepare and check your will before it's sent to you for approval. This usually happens 3-5 working days after your consultation and is your chance to ensure everything is correct before signing your will.



04

Signed and stored

Once you're happy, your will needs to be signed and witnessed by two people who are not beneficiaries. It then needs to be stored until needed by your loved ones. We've got fireproof safes at our customer centres if you'd like to see us in person. This could take as little as 15 minutes, and we'll even give you a copy to take home. Online wills also need to be printed and signed, but feel free to get in touch if you need any help.

05

Have things changed?

When life changes, make sure your will does too. You might have welcomed a new baby, changed your relationship status, or bought property. We recommend updating your will every 3-5 years. Don't worry - we'll get in touch every now and again to remind you.

Beneficiaries

refers to any person, organisation, trust or charity who will benefit under the will.



Whats next?

When the time comes, we'll have your will ready for your family. If you like, we'll be there every step of the way to work as, or with, your executor. Get in touch at any stage if you need assistance via the live chat on our website publictrust.co.nz or by calling 0800 371 471.



What's an executor?



An executor has the important task of carrying out the instructions in your will, ensuring your legacy lives on. This process is called estate administration, which includes a range of financial, legal and administrative tasks like closing bank accounts, paying debts and filing tax returns. The executor also must apply to the court for probate and respond to any legal claims. It's a big responsibility and can take a lot of time.

Who should you choose?

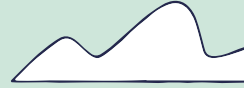
It's important to pick someone you trust, but it's a bit more complicated than what you see on TV. This is why we recommend choosing a professional trustee organisation, as they have a

team of experts on hand who can help. Plenty of people choose Public Trust to be their executor. Kiwis trust us because we're impartial, stable and have nearly 150 years of expertise on our side. This means we will always be there for when you need us most.

Probate is court confirmation that the will is authentic, and grants the executor permission to administer the estate as per the instructions in the will. The administration process may involve collecting and valuing assets, paying debts and distributing assets to beneficiaries.

Executor Assist

If you already know someone you'd choose, Public Trust offer Executor Assist. This is a service we provide to support your chosen executor. It comes at an extra charge but takes away the stress and complications of carrying out their duties.



Why create a will with Public Trust?

We've been protecting and empowering the legacies of New Zealanders since 1873, but Kiwis come to us for more than just our wealth of experience.

As a Crown Entity, we've got all New Zealander's best interests at heart. Furthermore, we have customer centres right around New Zealand, allowing you to pop in and talk with one of our trustees in person if you need any guidance. If you prefer the comfort of your own home, we have an online support system and 0800 number, connecting you to an experienced trustee any day of the week.

Plenty of people also ask...



What happens if I don't have a will?

Legally speaking, it's called dying intestate. This means everything you own will be divided up according to the law and not your wishes. Having a will gives your family and friends peace of mind during the grieving process.

What if I don't have anything of value to pass on?

Everyone has something worth safeguarding. For example, assets in one institution worth over \$15,000 are required to go through a legal process. Perhaps there's something more sentimental worth protecting like an heirloom or photo album?

What are my options for ensuring my kids are looked after?

Custody will remain with any parent who is still alive. However, if you need someone to advise on important life decisions for your children, you can name a testamentary guardian who can help look after their best

interests. This might relate to education or staying in touch with family members. Testamentary guardians can also apply for full custody in the absence of a fit parent.

What does a will cost?

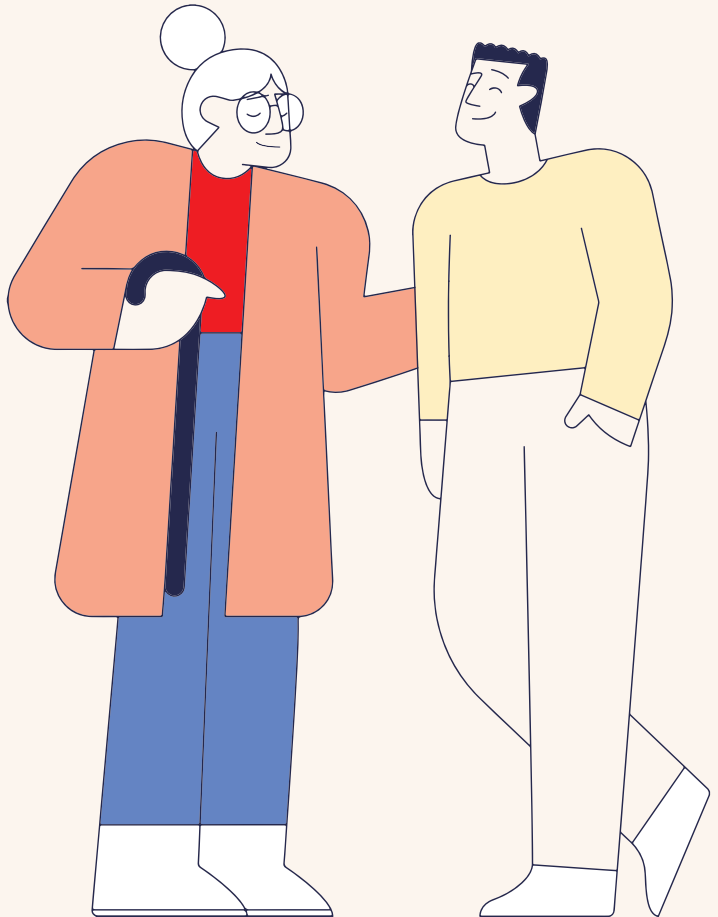
The cost of writing a will depends on the complexity of your situation. Not to worry though – at Public Trust, we have affordable options for all situations, from the simple to the complex. You can find all of our up-to-date fees and information on our website.

What does estate administration cost?

If you'd like to name Public Trust as Executor of your will, we do not charge a percentage of your estate to administer, but instead only charge for the work we do. If you don't want us to administer your estate as your executor, then you only pay for your will. For our current fees as well as more information and assistance, please get in touch with us or visit our website.

Enduring Powers of Attorney

Big decisions while you're still living



You never know when you might need someone else to make a big decision on your behalf. You might be overseas, unwell, unable to speak English fluently or simply want someone else to take responsibility.

So, while you're securing your legacy with a will, consider an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA). It's just as important as having a will and easy to have prepared at the same time, either online or in person.

EPAs are designed to be put in place during your lifetime to protect your assets and wellbeing. Your will, on the other hand, is there to protect your legacy when you pass away.

A bit confusing? We're here to help.



What does an Enduring Power of Attorney do?

An Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) is a legal document that enables you to choose a family member, friend or organisation, like Public Trust, as an attorney to make important decisions on your behalf if you're not able to. They can immediately step in to act for you, ensuring you're taken care of in the way that you'd like.

You can select more than one attorney depending on the type of EPA you choose, and they don't have to be a lawyer. Consider them a guardian of your legacy while you're still alive.

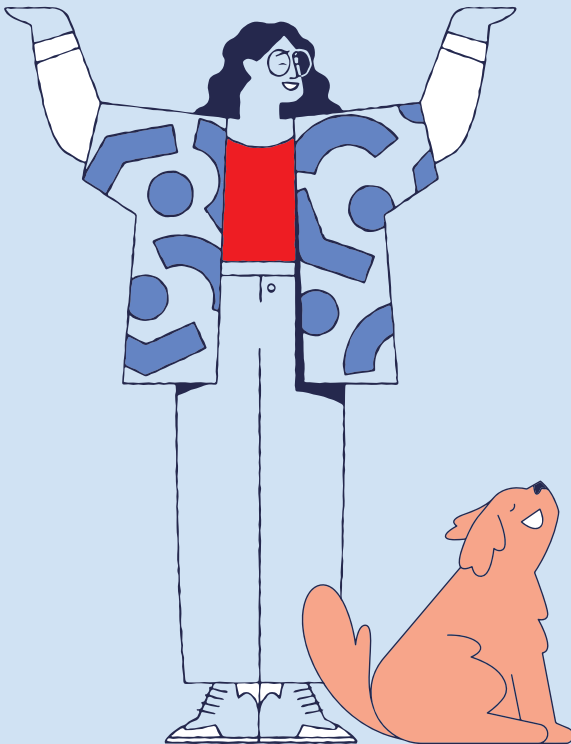
Why do I need an EPA?

Your physical and financial welfare is important. By having an EPA, you're protecting your legacy while you're still alive. This means you're free to continue enjoying life knowing that whatever happens, you'll have the support you need without delay.

It's also important to have decisions made on your behalf by someone who has your best interests at heart. Family members don't automatically get given the right to be an attorney. If they haven't been legally appointed, they'll need to go through the courts.

This can be lengthy and expensive, potentially resulting in someone being appointed who is unsuitable for the role. Having an EPA in place before it's needed makes it easier for your loved ones. Save time, money and stress with an attorney you've chosen.

There are two types of EPA, turn the page to find out more about them.



Setting up an EPA is easy with Public Trust.

You can start the process online any day of the week with live chat support, or book a consultation with one of our experts at a customer centre near you.

**publictrust.co.nz
0800 371 471**

EPA for personal care and welfare

Your health is everything, and this ensures you are putting it in good hands. If injury or illness mean you're suddenly unable to make decisions about your wellbeing, the person you appoint as personal care and welfare attorney will be able to act for you. It's important that you appoint somebody that you trust as they may need to decide where you live and what kind of healthcare is appropriate for you.



Who should I choose?

You can only appoint one person as a personal care and welfare attorney. They should be someone who lives nearby, knows your health situation and understands the care you may need to ensure you're comfortable. You might already have someone in mind for such an important job. Now it's time to recognise them officially before they're needed. Remember, attorneys can only make decisions for you once a medical professional certifies that you're no longer able to.

A few helpful questions to ask yourself:

1. Are they a good listener?
2. Do they give good advice?
3. Do they have your best interests at heart?
4. Do they have time to take care of you?
5. Are they fit enough to manage your welfare?

EPA for property and financial assets

If you become incapable of taking care of property and finances on your own, or simply want to put that responsibility in someone else's hands, you'll need an Enduring Power of Attorney for property. This means electing someone who manages your money and day-to-day finances, investments, business and property to help give you peace of mind. You can appoint more than one attorney and choose whether they must act jointly or individually.

Who should I choose?

Consider a reliable individual or trustee organisation who has time, expertise and experience on their side. For example, Public Trust can act as your property attorney. We're highly experienced and have a team of professionals on hand to ensure everything runs smoothly and your property is managed appropriately. We'll take the pressure off you and your loved ones, allowing them to spend time with you instead of dealing with paperwork.

When choosing a property attorney, ask yourself:

1. Do they have previous money management experience?
2. Can they make calm and rational decisions?
3. Are they a good communicator?
4. Do they have your best interests at heart?
5. Do they have a team of experts on hand they can turn to?

Public Trust as an attorney

The role of a property attorney may be a difficult and technical role for friends and family members. Kiwis right around New Zealand trust Public Trust to carry it out. We're one of the most experienced trustee service organisations in the country with local support teams available 7 days a week online, on the phone, or in person.

Plenty of people also ask...

Do I need a lawyer for an EPA?

No, but your EPA document does require an authorised witness to sign a certificate. They could be a lawyer or a certified Public Trust employee. We can ensure your EPA contains everything required to protect your legacy, ensuring it's in safe hands. Remember, your EPA only comes into effect when you're unable to undertake important tasks yourself. If you choose to activate your property EPA while you are still able, your attorney should be acting under your guidance.

Can an attorney be changed?

If you're mentally capable, you can revoke an EPA or an attorney's appointment at any time by giving that attorney written notice.

What if I don't have anything to manage?

We believe everyone has something worth managing, even if it's not financial. It could be as simple as choosing what kind of care is most suitable for you. But don't forget about your day-to-day tasks. Income still needs to be managed and bills need to be paid.

What if I don't know anyone suitable to be my EPA?

A close family member or friend is recommended as your personal care attorney, but feel free to chat to one of our trustees to help you decide. Public Trust is more than happy to act as your property attorney. It's key to have a safe pair of hands for this role and it's something we have plenty of experience with.

Find out more at publictrust.co.nz



We're everywhere you are.

Got any questions about what you've read? We can chat online, on the phone, through our online customer centre or even in person, just like the good old days.

