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## Instructions - How to create a Michigan statutory will

### Step 1: Prepare your form

Use the [Do-It-Yourself Will](https://michiganlegalhelp.org/resources/wills-and-life-planning/do-it-yourself-will) tool to prepare your Michigan Statutory Will

### Step 2: Make a plan to sign your will: Find witnesses

Your will is not valid unless you sign it in front of at least two witnesses. If you have a third person who is willing to be a witness, three witnesses is even better.

Witnesses must be 18 or older. You should choose responsible adults. If someone tries to say your will is not valid after you die, the judge will speak to the witnesses to make sure you had the legal capacity to sign. The judge might ask them questions about whether you seemed confused or if anyone seemed to be forcing you to sign.

### Step 3: Sign your will in front of your witnesses

You may need to sign your will in several places, depending on the choices you made in the form. **Your witnesses must watch you sign the will** in each of the following places:

* **If your will leaves any cash gifts**, sign on the signature line in section 2.1 of the document to confirm the cash gifts. If you did not leave cash gifts in this section, leave the signature lines blank.
* **Sign next to your choice in section 2.3 (All Other Assets),** describing how you want the rest of your property to pass. There are two choices here: to leave all of your property to your own heirs, or to leave your property half to your heirs and half to your spouse’s heirs. You made this selection when you filled the will with the DIY tool. To help you remember which one you chose, the other line is filled with “NOT APPLICABLE.” Sign on the blank line.
* **Sign next to your choice in section 3.3 (Bond**). A bond is money your personal representative or conservator gives to the court temporarily to make sure that they do not handle your money or property inappropriately. You made this selection when you filled the will with the DIY tool. To help you remember which one you chose, the other line is filled with “NOT APPLICABLE.” Sign on the blank line.
* **Sign and date your will in section 3.4 (Definitions and Additional Clauses).** This is the final signature to say that the will represents your wishes.
* **Sign and date the bottom of the List Disposing of Tangible Personal Property**, if you chose to list any property on this page.

### Step 4: Have your witnesses sign the will

Within a short time after they watched you sign the will, your witnesses must sign. You must have at least two witnesses. It is better to have three witnesses.

The witnesses must print their name, sign, and write their address. They do not need to review and understand the will. Their signature means that they believe you have mental capacity and signed the will freely without anyone unfairly influencing you. Ask them to make sure their printed name and address are neat so that the court can read it and contact them, if needed.

### Step 5: Destroy your old will, if you had one

If you have an older will, signing the new will makes the old will invalid. To be clear about which will you want to use, destroy the old one or write "Void" on every page. If you filed your old will with your county probate court, file the new one there too. If anyone has a copy of your old will, give them updated copies and ask them to destroy the old copies.

### Step 6: Keep your will in a safe place and tell family and loved ones where to find it

Store your will securely and make sure your family knows where it is. Your loved ones can only follow your wishes after you die if they know about your will and can find it.

You can file your will with the county probate court where you live for $25. The court can’t give copies of the will to anyone except you while you are living. After you die, your family can bring your death certificate to get a copy.

If you don't file with the court, put your will somewhere safe and tell your family where it is. Some people use bank safe-deposit boxes but be aware that banks need a court order before letting anyone open your box after you die. This means extra paperwork.

No matter where you choose to store your will, you might also want to give a copy to the person you named as personal representative.