



Pete Shedor, Managing Attorney
David Williams, Associate

Thank you for inquiring about Wills.

Please take the time to consider these issues before you arrange a meeting with me:

1) Determine who you wish to appoint as your Executor (the person charged with the responsibility of *executing*, or carrying out the provisions of your Will). The person must be over 18 years old, not illiterate, not an alien, and not a felon. Name at least one alternate, if at all possible.

2) Determine your beneficiaries – the people who are to receive your estate. You should consider naming more than just the immediate recipients. For instance, any siblings or children you have may be your primary concern, but please also consider the possibility of your entire family dying in the same accident. That may not be likely to happen, but it is a good idea to anticipate that possibility in your Will. Also consider the possibility that your secondary beneficiaries may not be alive when your Will is probated. Many people designate a church or charity as a residual beneficiary.

3) Determine whether you have any specific bequests. For example, you may want your neighbor to receive your piano.

4) Determine whom you wish to nominate as the guardians if you have any minor children. This will be the person with the legal right and responsibility for all custodial (but not necessarily financial) decisions regarding your minor children. Think about possible alternates, and alternates for your alternates. One can hardly have too many alternates.

5) Determine whom you wish to appoint as the Trustee for the funds which would be held in trust for your minor children, if any. This is the person who will be handling the trust funds according to the terms you stated in your trust. The Trustee can be the same person who serves as Guardian and/or Executor.

6) Determine what you want your trust to accomplish. Typically, a testamentary trust for the benefit of minor children gives broad powers to the trustee to make payments for the upbringing of the beneficiaries. It may also provide for a private education or establish a college fund. If you have any such specific goals, think through how you would communicate them to your trustee. Also, at some point the trust should come to an end: how and at what point or time would you finally distribute its remaining funds?

7) Make a list of any specific questions that occur to you during this preparation process. I'll be glad to address them during your visit.

8) Please bring this letter with you when you come for your initial appointment.

My normal fee for a single Will is \$200. Included in this fee are two visits: one initial half-hour office visit; and a second visit at which you execute or sign the final drafts (I will send you a preliminary draft for your review). I will send you a preliminary draft for your review. You can then review it for correct spelling of names, etc. Also as you review the draft, you may realize that you want to change the appointment of your executor, or that you want to change the percentages or amounts of the distributions to your heirs. You will have an opportunity to revise your Will at that time. Once you have submitted any changes or corrections on the draft to me. *Please* make sure that you are content with the revision you send me. Because once you've submitted any changes or corrections on the draft to me I will use it to print and assemble a hard copy. Every subsequent change you require means additional work for me. I reserve the right to bill at my hourly rate for subsequent changes. When you approve, change or correct the draft, you can then make an appointment to come in and sign the final documents.

Normally, the half-hour is an adequate amount of time to exchange the information necessary in developing a simple Will suitable to your needs. By simple Will, I mean one which primarily concerns transferring your assets and providing for the care of any children you may have. However, if you have significant concerns regarding tax avoidance and other financial considerations, please call me in advance of your visit. If the value of your estate – plus the value of any lifetime gifts you have made – is likely to exceed \$5,490,000 (for year 2017), you may need more comprehensive estate planning. It may be that you have specific questions concerning the law which will require more than the allotted 30 minutes to address. I will be glad to discuss them, but you should realize that I must bill you for that additional time. My normal billing rate is \$240 per hour; however, the rate at which I bill for an extended *initial visit* is \$120 per hour. Our office policy is to request your payment at the initial meeting. I will deposit your payment into our trust account and then credit that amount as the fee is earned.

You may have heard of a document called a Living Will, otherwise known as a Declaration of a Desire for a Natural Death, or in the ER it is typically referred to as a DNR (do not resuscitate). This document authorizes doctors to withhold certain medical treatment or procedures of life support (e.g. use of a respirator) if it is determined that you have a terminal illness or are in a persistent vegetative state. Many health care or public organizations make these available at minimal costs or no charge. If you are concerned about this possibility, I can prepare a Health Care Power of Attorney which may include the same provisions, but also allows you to designate individuals to make certain medical decisions on your behalf. My fee for this is \$130. You may also consider having a Durable Power of Attorney drafted for you. This instrument allows the person you designate to make your financial decisions when you are unable or unavailable to do so yourself. My fee for this document is \$100.

Please call if you have any questions or concerns or to schedule your initial meeting. I look forward to helping you in this regard.

Sincerely,

Pete

Peter R. Shedor

pete@shedorlawfirm.com

P.S. Our office is at the intersection of Maynard and High House roads. Despite our efforts to correct this, many online maps or GPS services misrepresent our location by as much as ½ mile. We are actually on the southeast corner, directly across High House from the Rite Aid. If you are using one of the modern methods of locating us, you may have better success with the address of 1100 NW Maynard.