



Learn more at:

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This pamphlet is up to date to
March 31, 2018.

Making a Will

When you live in an Indigenous community

This pamphlet is for these
Indigenous people:

- ▶ registered under the
Indian Act and
- ▶ live in a community
("reserve") when they die

It was made possible thanks to support from



Services aux
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Canada

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Why Make a Will?

If you die without a will, the *Indian Act* decides who gets your property. It isn't you or your family who decides.

A will gives you more control over what happens after you die. This makes it easier on your family.

Here are examples of instructions you can leave in your will:

- ▶ Say who will inherit your property.
- ▶ Name someone to care for children under 18.
- ▶ Name someone to settle your affairs.
- ▶ State your wishes for your funeral.

How to Make a Will

You can make a will on your own at no cost.

To make a valid will, you must do these things:

- ▶ Write it by hand, on a computer or ask someone else to write it for you.
- ▶ Clearly say who will get your property after you die.
- ▶ Sign the will.

It's also a good idea to do these things:

- ▶ Sign your will in front of two people you trust.
- ▶ Have both people sign the will.
- ▶ Write the date next to each signature.

Tell a person you trust where you keep your will. The government must approve it after you die.

You can ask a notary or lawyer to prepare your will. It's a good idea if your situation is complicated, for example, you own a house or business.

Important: Special rules apply to transfer land in a community ("reserve"). Learn more by visiting our website or contacting Indigenous Services Canada to make sure your will follows the rules.

