Estate Planning Starter Kit

Where there’s a will, there’s a way.

Simplify your will preparation with this form.

Important disclaimer: This is not a will, nor is it a legal document. It is designed to help your attorney to help you in preparation of your will.
An important note

This is not your final will, but it’s a great place to start collecting information before visiting with your attorney. Be as accurate as possible, and make sure to revisit your will when major changes occur in your life. Your estate plan is not one-and-it’s-done job. It should be a steady occupation because the variables it’s based on are constantly evolving. Your assets, your career and your transition into retirement, the needs of those closest to you and your philanthropic priorities, the cost of transferring your property to others—they are all likely to be different today than when you last signed your estate documents.

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# Estate Planning Starter Kit

## I: PERSONAL

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Spouse’s Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Home Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Mailing Address (if different)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Home Telephone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Work Telephone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Your Date of Birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Spouse’s Date of Birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Your Social Security Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>Spouse’s Social Security Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Marriage Place and Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Citizenship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**THE CARTER CENTER**

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## II: PRIOR MARRIAGES

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Name of Former Spouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Date of Marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Home Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Specify if the marriage terminated by death or divorce. <em>If terminated by divorce, please attach dissolution decree.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Date of Termination of Marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>List any relevant information regarding any obligations, child support or maintenance that is not contained in any dissolution decrees you have attached to this form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Your Date of Birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Spouse’s Date of Birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Your Social Security Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>Spouse’s Social Security Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Marriage Place and Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Citizenship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please note: If you have been previously married more than once, please provide all requested information for any additional spouses on a separate sheet.*
III: CHILDREN

Please note: If you have been previously married more than once, please provide all requested information for any additional spouses on a separate sheet.

A List all children from your current marriage, providing their names, dates of birth and addresses if different from your own:

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

B List all children from any previous marriage or relationship, providing their names, name of the other parent, dates of birth, and addresses if different from your own:

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

C List all children of your spouse from any previous marriage or relationship, providing their names, names of the other parent, dates of birth and addresses if different from your own:

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

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IV: DEPENDENTS

Are there any persons, other than minor children, who are partially or wholly dependent upon either you or your spouse for support now or possibly in the future? If so, please list their name and address and describe the nature of the relationship:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

V: OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS

A List the names, dates of birth, parentage and current addresses of any grandchildren of you or your spouse:

1. ________________________________________________________________
2. ________________________________________________________________
3. ________________________________________________________________
4. ________________________________________________________________
5. ________________________________________________________________

B List the names, addresses and birth dates of your parents, if still living:

Mother ____________________________________________________________
Father _____________________________________________________________

C List of the names, addresses and birth dates of any living siblings:

1. ________________________________________________________________
2. ________________________________________________________________
3. ________________________________________________________________
4. ________________________________________________________________
5. ________________________________________________________________
VI: TRUSTS
A  Do you currently receive income from a trust?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No
   If so, please attach a copy of the trust document.

VII: INSURANCE
A  Are there any life insurance policies in existence for either spouse?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

   If so, please indicate the name of the policy holder and provide information regarding:

   1. Name of Company(ies)  ________________________________

   2. Type of Insurance  ________________________________

   3. Amount and Cash Surrender Value  ________________________________

   4. Designated Beneficiary(ies)  ________________________________

   5. Policy number(s)  ________________________________

VIII: ASSETS IN JOINT TENANCY
Do you own any real or personal property as joint tenants with your spouse or third parties?
If so, please explain:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

IX: RETIREMENT BENEFITS
A  Are you enrolled in a retirement plan?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

   If so, please provide information regarding the type of plan, current value and
   beneficiary designation:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

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### X: GIFTS OR INHERITANCES

A. Are either you or your spouse likely to receive any gifts or inheritances? If so, please describe:

B. Do either you or your spouse make, or intend to make, regular gifts to any person? If so, please describe:

### XI: ASSETS AND LIABILITY SCHEDULE

Please estimate your assets and liabilities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Approximate Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Real Property</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Stocks and Bonds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Checking/Savings/Other Monetary Accounts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Cash Value of Life Insurance Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Retirement Benefits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Miscellaneous Property (including furniture, autos, boats, collections, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th>Approximate Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Mortgage or Deed of Trust or other amounts owed on real property</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Other loans from financial institutions (consolidated loan, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Student loan(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Amounts owed on credit cards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Other liabilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net Worth (Assets - Liabilities):**

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XII: REAL PROPERTY

Please attach a copy of the deed for each parcel of real property that you own.

XIII: WILL PROVISIONS

A  Personal Representative

A Personal Representative administers your estate in accordance with the instructions contained in your will. Please list a first choice and an alternate, in case the person who is your first choice predeceases you or is unable to serve:

First Choice

Name: __________________________
Address: __________________________
Relationship: __________________________

Alternate

Name: __________________________
Address: __________________________
Relationship: __________________________
B Distribution

1. Please list the individuals to whom you wish to leave your estate, providing instruction as to what percentage shall be received by each beneficiary:¹

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. If any of your designated beneficiaries should predecease you, do you want to distribute the gift among surviving beneficiaries? Or pass the gift to the children of deceased beneficiary?

________________________________________________________________________

C Guardianship

If you die before your children reach the age of eighteen, whom do you wish to serve as their guardian?

First Choice

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
Relationship: _______________________  

Alternate

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
Relationship: _______________________  

D Charitable Interests

Please list those charitable organizations, including your church and/or synagogue, that you would like to bequeath an interest from your estate, and the approximate amount(s) or percentage(s) you would like to leave to each:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

¹ Please do not list specific items of personal property, such as a lamp, car, etc. The distribution of these type of items can be better discussed during your initial meeting.

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E Testamentary Trust
A testamentary trust is a type of trust that does not go into effect until the person who made the trust passes away. If you wish, you can create a testamentary trust in your Will to become effective upon your death. The classic reason to establish such a trust is to ensure the well-being of your minor children, finance their education, etc. However, a testamentary trust can be created to accomplish a wide variety of goals. If you are interested in creating a testamentary trust, or have questions, please indicate your wishes and questions below.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

XIV: DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY

The Durable Power of Attorney becomes effective upon the proven incompetency of an individual to handle his or her own affairs. In this document, you would name a person who would take charge of your affairs (known as your “attorney-in-fact”). The value of this document is that it eliminates the need to establish a guardianship in the event of incompetency. An attorney-in-fact has the power to take any legal action that you would otherwise undertake yourself, including the transfer of funds or purchase or sale of real property, on your behalf.

A Do you need this document prepared? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure. I need more info.

________________________________________________________________________

B Who do you wish to nominate as your attorney-in-fact?

First Choice
Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
Relationship: ______________________

Alternate
Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
Relationship: ______________________

C Do you have questions? If so, please list:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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XV: POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE

The Power of Attorney for Health Care authorizes the designated attorney-in-fact to authorize or withhold medical care if you are unable to do so yourself. The person so designated should be a person with whom you have discussed issues such as use of medical means to prolong your life artificially. Your attorney-in-fact should be a person in whose judgment you trust.

A  Please indicate whether you need this document prepared.  □ Yes  □ No  □ Not sure.
   I need more info.

B  Who do you wish to nominate as your attorney-in-fact?
   
   First Choice
   Name: ____________________________
   Address: __________________________
   Relationship: ______________________

   Alternate
   Name: ____________________________
   Address: __________________________
   Relationship: ______________________

C  Do you have questions? If so, please list:


XVI: DIRECTIVE TO PHYSICIANS (LIVING WILL)

The Directive to Physicians clarifies a person’s wish not to have his or her life “artificially prolonged” in the case of any injury, disease or terminal condition rendering such person unable to communicate.

A  Please indicate whether you need this document prepared.  □ Yes  □ No  □ Not sure.
   I need more info.

B  Do you have questions? If so, please list:


XVII: PETS

Please indicate whether you are interested in having a trust to make sure that your pet is taken care of in the event of your death.  ☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Not sure. I need more info.

XVIII: OTHER

Is there any other information that you think may be important in planning your estate that I have not addressed? Please specify:

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

Please list your current professional legal and financial advisors here:

Attorney
Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
Phone: ____________________________________________

Alternate
Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
Phone: ____________________________________________

Stock Broker
Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
Phone: ____________________________________________

Insurance Agent
Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
Phone: ____________________________________________

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NEXT STEPS

Would you like us to recommend some of the legal and financial advisors we know that could assist you?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

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A You can also have a no obligation and confidential consultation with Barry Nickelsberg, CAP or Mark Williams, Esq., CAP from the Carter Center’s Office of Estate & Gift Planning. They can review your estate planning information as it pertains to a potential bequest to The Carter Center and assist you with specific beneficiary designation language and/or naming opportunities that are available. Life income gift arrangements (such as Charitable Gift Annuities), that pay you during your lifetime can also be explained..

Barry Nickelsberg, CAP - Chief Development Officer
Phone: 404-420-3868
Barry.Nickelsberg@CarterCenter.org

Mark N. Williams, Esq., CAP - Senior Associate Director
Phone: 404-420-3883
Mark.Williams@CarterCenter.org

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B Bring this completed form to your attorney to begin the process of drafting the estate documents you will need.