

About the National Federation of the Blind

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) is the largest organization of the blind in this country. Founded in 1940, the Federation's purpose is to serve as a vehicle for collective action by the blind and as a mechanism to help blind people achieve self-confidence, self-respect, and self-determination. Our goal is the complete integration of the blind into society on a basis of equality.

With more than fifty thousand members from seven hundred local chapters in state affiliates covering all fifty states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, the Federation is truly the *voice of the nation's blind*.

The establishment of the National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute, the first of its kind developed and operated by an organization of blind people, marks an historic milestone for the National Federation of the Blind and blind people throughout the world. The programs, services, research, and technology of the Institute will reflect the consumer perspective and be responsive to the pragmatic needs of the blind in a way unique to an organization of blind persons.



**National Federation
of the Blind**

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*The National Federation of the Blind holds 501(c)(3)
tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service.*



Your
Will &
**Charitable
Interests**

(Voice of the Nation's Blind

About Your Will

Perhaps the most important document to you and your loved ones is your will. This document provides for a clear and specific understanding as to how you want to provide for your loved ones and how to transfer your assets.

The Four “P’s” of Estate Planning

A wonderful way to organize your plan and save costs:

People: List the people and charitable organizations that are important to you and how you want to provide for them.

Properties: List the properties that comprise your estate. Include cash, securities, real estate, life insurance, retirement plan, etc.

Plan: Design a plan for your family and charitable interests. Consult your attorney to draw the perfect plan.

Planners: Consult professionals who will help you put your plan in proper legal form. Your attorney, Investment Advisor, Trust Officer, and the National Federation of the Blind Planned Giving officer.

Giving through Your Will

Over the years you have provided to the National Federation of the Blind, and for that we thank you. Please consider your continued support to our mission by making a gift through your will.

How Can I Give through My Will?

- Designate a percentage of your estate to the NFB.
- Designate a specific amount to the NFB.
- Designate the remainder of your estate to the NFB, after providing for your loved ones.
- Include a gift in your will to the NFB that will provide a life income for your loved ones.

The State-Made Will

Without a will, the state will decide how your assets are distributed.

- It will not adequately provide for your spouse and children.
- It could cause unnecessary taxation.
- It could cause unnecessary probate expenses.
- It will not take into account your charitable intentions.
- It may result in the state receiving your estate.

Start Now

It is never too late to prepare your will. Creative estate planning often presents opportunities for a person preparing his/her will to transfer his/her entire estate free of federal estate taxes and simultaneously provide for charitable donations. Review your will with your attorney to be certain that it is written to take advantages of these possibilities.

State Law Requirements

Most states require that a valid last will and testament include the following elements:

- The testator must be competent to execute a will. Legal age to execute a will is established by state law and usually ranges from 18 to 21 years of age.
- The will must be witnessed. There must be at least one and in many cases two witnesses to the signing of a will.
- The will must be in writing. Oral wills, or deathbed requests, are not generally sufficient to transfer assets.