

Letter of Wishes

A letter of wishes is a private, informal note that sits alongside your will. It is not legally binding, but it guides the people you trust — your executors and family — on the wishes a will cannot capture: your funeral, who should have sentimental items, messages to loved ones, and how you would like things handled. Fill this in by hand, keep it with your will, and tell your executor it exists. Review it every year or after any big life change.

Written by

Date

A note to my executors

Anything you want the people handling your estate to know first — your overall wishes, your tone, where key documents are kept.

My funeral and farewell wishes

Burial or cremation, religious or humanist, songs, readings, flowers or donations, and anything you would prefer to avoid. Organ and tissue donation belongs here too — your family is still asked, so saying it now spares them guessing.

Where my will and important papers are kept

The signed original will, and anything your executor will have to go looking for — deeds, policies, pension paperwork, and who holds them. Where to look, not what is in them.

Sentimental gifts — who should have what

Specific personal items and who you would like to receive them. (For legally binding gifts, use your will — this is guidance for your family.)

Messages to the people I love

Words you would like passed on. You can name people and write freely — there is more space at the end if you run out.

Dependants, children and pets

Your hopes for anyone who depends on you — guardianship wishes (appointed formally in your will), and how you would like pets cared for.

My digital life

Where your important accounts and passwords are kept (a password manager or a secure vault) — never write actual passwords here. Point your executor to where access lives.

Anything else

Anything that matters to you that the sections above did not cover.

More space

Carry on from any section above — note which one you are continuing, so it is clear to whoever reads this.

Before you put this away

Tell your executor this letter exists and where to find it. Then sign and date it below, and keep it with your will — not inside it.

Come back to it once a year, or after anything big: a birth, a death, a move, a marriage. Wishes change, and a letter that is out of date can cause the argument it was meant to prevent.

Keeping it current is the hard part. If you would like your will, accounts and wishes in one place your family can actually find, that is what we built Beqst for — beqst.com

Signed

Last reviewed