

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF JOHN DOE

Who Died In 2002 Without A Legal Will
(This Will created for him by the State of Maryland)

Is this your desire? This is not a real Will, but it tells what can happen when you do not have a Last Will and Testament properly drawn up and executed. The Intestacy Statute probably reflects no ones wishes, but **ONLY YOU** can change its application to your family and property upon your death.

I, **John Doe**, of **Maryland**, declare this to be my Last Will and Testament.

Article One. I direct my family to spend for my funeral and burial or cremation, including a stone or marker at my grave, as they see fit up to the maximum amount of \$5,000. If they decide that a funeral in excess of this amount is desirable, I direct them to seek a special order from the court or to pay for it themselves.

Article Two. I do not wish to determine who shall receive family heirlooms or items of sentimental value.

Article Three.

A. If I leave minor children, I give my wife only one-half (½) of my possessions, and I give my children the remaining half (½). I appoint my wife as guardian of the children and their property, but require that she report to the court each year to account for how, why, and where she spends the money. My wife shall not use any of the children's money for her own benefit, regardless of any need that may arise. I direct her to purchase a performance bond to guarantee that she exercises proper judgment in the handling, investing, and spending of the children's money. As soon as they reach legal age, my children shall have the right to demand and receive a complete accounting from their mother of all of her actions with their money. When each child reaches the age of eighteen (18), he/she may withdraw and spend his/her share of my estate. No one shall have a right to question my children's actions concerning how they decide to spend their respective shares.

B. If I leave no minor children but have surviving issue or parents, I give my wife \$15,000 plus one-half (½) of the balance, the rest to my surviving issue equally, if any, or to my surviving parents equally, if there are no issue. I forfeit the right to make unequal distributions based on special needs of any beneficiary.

Article Four. Should my wife predecease me, or die while any of my children are minors, I do not wish to exercise my right to nominate the guardian of my children. Instead I hope that my relatives and friends get together to select a guardian by mutual agreement and convince the court to appoint that person. In the event they fail to agree on a guardian, I know the court will make a selection. If the court wishes, it may appoint a stranger.

Article Five. I know the court will appoint a personal representative to administer my estate, since I choose not to do so. The court shall determine what that representative is empowered to do or not.

Article Six. Under existing laws, there are legitimate avenues open to me to lower death taxes. Since I prefer to have my money used for governmental purposes rather than for the benefit of my wife and children, I direct that no effort be made to lower taxes.

Article Seven. Although in my lifetime I have given to, and been concerned with, a number of charitable causes, I leave nothing to them in my Will. Having given graciously and generously at all times, I believe that my family and others who survive me should do the same. I do not wish to be remembered through a living memorial.