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**Digital Wills**



**Writing a Will**

Legal professionals recommend that a person writes a will as soon as they have valuable property/assets or when they have children.

Depending on how complex your situation is, you may be able to write your own will using My Law BC (<https://mylawbc.com/paths/wills/>). However, it is always a good idea to check with a legal professional. Some options for finding a lawyer (<https://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/working-with-lawyers/finding-a-lawyer/>).



**What Is a Digital Will?**

A digital will is a will, or part of a will, that outlines what a person would like to happen to their digital estate after they die. A digital estate is made up of digital assets and digital accounts. Basically, it means anything of yours that is stored online or in a digital format.



**What Are Digital Assets and Digital Accounts?**

A digital asset generally means an individual file. For example, a photograph taken with your smartphone, an email, a Word document.

A digital account means an online account such as an email account, Facebook account, online banking account, etc.



**Why Should I Care About My Digital Estate?**

* To ensure that you pass on items of sentimental (photos, emails) or monetary (travel rewards, virtual currency on sites like PayPal) value
* To help your executor/administrator in managing your estate
* To maintain your privacy



**How Can I Manage My Digital Estate?**

1. Make a list of all digital assets and accounts, including usernames and passwords/PINs
2. Create a digital estate plan, identifying for each asset/group of assets/account whether you want it to be deleted, memorialized, or passed on to a beneficiary
3. Designate a digital estate manager
4. Update your will to include the instructions

One of the easiest ways to manage your online accounts/assets is to use a password manager such as LastPass or 1Password. This is the #1 recommended security measure for online safety and will also really help your beneficiaries manage your online accounts.



**Other Considerations**

Organize your digital assets and accounts now. It will also make your life easier to have an organized system for your photos, passwords, emails, etc.!

Do not put any passwords into the will itself. A will may become public record after probate.



**Further Resources**

* Make a Will Week – BC Government

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/life-events/death/wills-estates/make-a-will-week>

* Wills & Personal Planning - My Law BC

<https://mylawbc.com/paths/wills/>

* How Do I Make a Will? - Clicklaw Common Questions

<https://mylawbc.com/paths/wills/>

* Why everyone on social media needs to create a “digital will” right now – DailyHive <https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/create-digital-will-2019>
* Finding a Lawyer – Law Society of BC

<https://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/working-with-lawyers/finding-a-lawyer/>

* The Best Password Managers – Wirecutter

<https://thewirecutter.com/reviews/best-password-managers/>

* Digital assets need to be considered, included in your will <https://globalnews.ca/news/5815503/will-estate-planning-digital-assets/>