

CHRISTIE TOURNET  
& ASSOCIATES, LLC

4042 DESOTO STREET  
MANDEVILLE, LOUISIANA 70471  
[christie@tournetlaw.com](mailto:christie@tournetlaw.com)

OFFICE: 985-951-2177  
[www.tournetlaw.com](http://www.tournetlaw.com)

## How to Write an Olographic (“Handwritten”) Will

### FORM Requirements for your Handwritten Will to be Valid:

1. **DATE.** You must date your Last Will;
2. **HANDWRITE.** You must write your Last Will in your Handwriting. Do not type your Will and Do not have someone else write your Will;
3. **SIGN.** You must sign your Will at its end. You do not need any witness or a Notary.

\*\*\*1) Dating, 2) writing in your handwriting, and 3) signing at the end of the Last Will are the only three form requirements for a Louisiana, handwritten Will under La CC Art. 1575.\*\*\*

### Meeting form requirements is easy; wording can be difficult. So, **ADDITIONAL TIPS:**

1. **Keep the Will simple and concise.** A Handwritten Will should not exceed one page.
  - You do not want to create ambiguity or confusion or invite litigation over what you meant. Thus, do NOT attempt to use legalese or legal terms for which you are not very familiar.
2. **Show clear intent to make a Last Will:** Title Your Last Will as "My Last Will." If you are revoking all prior wills, then, state: "I revoke all prior Wills."
3. **Be clear on what you are gifting to whom and use "gifting language."** A Will is a Donation that occurs, upon your passing. So, please, use words such as "I give or I donate." Do not use words such as "I want" or "I intend." For example: "I give my entire estate to my spouse."
4. **Provide alternate beneficiaries.** If a beneficiary predeceases you, then, specify to whom you instead gift. For example, "If my spouse passes before me, I instead gift all my estate to my children."
5. **Consider naming an Executor.** If you can, name an Executor and provide that your Executor may act as an "Independent Executor." But, if you cannot think of an Executor appointment, then, no worries. A Will does not have to name an Executor. If necessary, one can be appointed later.

In emergency situations, it may be a good idea to put a Handwritten Will in place. But, utilize the KISS principle: KEEP IT SHORT and SIMPLE. Also, consider: "What is my main goal in writing this Will?" Then, state that goal clearly and concisely.

After the emergency or time crunch passes, you can consider putting in place a Notarial Will, which includes two witnesses and a notary and is considered "self-proving" under Louisiana law.