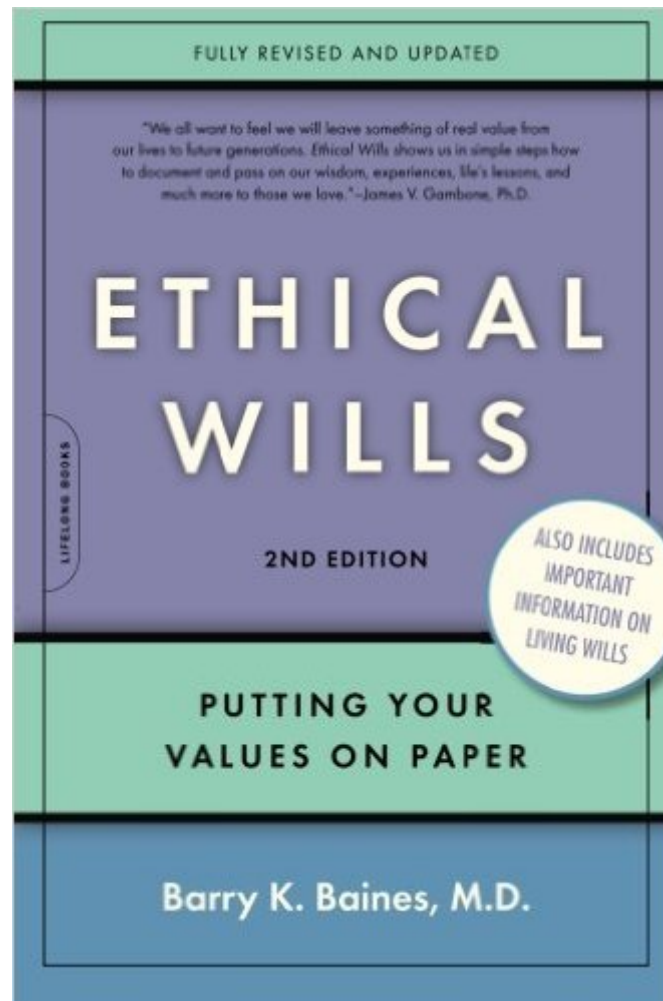


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# Ethical Wills: Putting Your Values On Paper, 2nd Edition



## Synopsis

As evidenced in the Terri Schiavo case that made national headlines, having a living will is an essential element in ensuring that the way in which you would like to spend your last days will be respected. It informs both family and doctors of your medical treatment preferences in specific situations. An ethical will is a complementary text that communicates personal values, beliefs, blessings, and advice to relatives and to future generations. It can be more meaningful to friends and family than any material possession you could bequeath to them. Together, living and ethical wills ensure that your wishes and hopes are "on the record," not to be lost, ignored, or forgotten. Offering practical and inspirational advice for people at any stage of life, *Ethical and Living Wills* includes: --Three recommended writing approaches to capturing our feelings for posterity --Expert information for understanding the legal and practical issues involved in documenting your medical care and treatment preferences in commonly occurring situations --Advice on when to distribute both ethical and living wills -- Tips to protect the legacy you leave in an ethical will-preparing and caring for the document you create

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## Customer Reviews

Whether you want to write your own ethical will or help others write about their values and what they want to leave behind - this book will help you. Dr Barry Baines is caring, honest and has in-depth experience which he shares with us in this book. I found myself coming back to it for a second and third time. Even when I see it just sitting there on my book shelf, it triggers more thoughts about my own life and what I will leave behind. This book gives you something to think about and to work with.

It will touch you.

Most wills are legal documents. They discuss how to split up the physical assets you have accumulated over the years. For the most part this comes down to money, perhaps a few treasured possessions, a house/car/boat, and so on. A second legal document is a living will. It is a document that directs decision makers if you are no longer capable of making decisions on your own. Perhaps the most famous such situation in recent memory was that of Terri Schiavo. In the absence of a living will, the courts said that her husband was the one legally in charge of making these decisions. As you probably remember, her parents held different opinions, but in the long run the husband was in control. An Ethical Will, on the other hand, is not a legal document but a letter you might write to your family to express the values you hold dear. It's a document that explains how you think, perhaps why you think that way. This little book explains Ethical Wills, gives some excellent examples, and explains why you might want one.

Ethical Wills by Barry Baines, MD breaks new ground in the ethical will movement within the US. Written for easy comprehension, this book covers the topic in excellent fashion, while providing the inspiration so essential to completing the task of putting our values in print for those we leave behind. I highly recommend this book, not only for the informational content, but for the encouragement it brings for completing the process. The section on living wills and advance directives is also very informative and useful. For those looking for a single source of information on this subject, Ethical Wills by Barry Baines is an outstanding resource.

If you are searching for a venue to create a legacy for your family that will continue for generations to come, purchase Barry Baines Ethical Wills, Second Edition to assist you in preparing this written legacy. The intriguing concept of sharing ones' values and ethics is a priceless investment not only to the writer but to everyone who will ever read the document. Baines also includes information and insight into another important document that everyone needs to write: The Living Will. This book is a valuable investment that is worth more than you will ever pay. It is well written, inspiring and when you complete it you will have a legacy to leave your heirs.

Am in love with the idea of leaving the truths you've discovered in your daily walk with God for your children and grandchildren. We should all do this, but it's one of those things that are so easy to put off until later.

An ethical will (or legacy letter), originating in biblical times, is a personal letter written to a spouse, children, or friends. Often handwritten and only a few pages in length, it includes the values, beliefs and lessons learned of the writer, with an expression of love and gratitude to the recipients. This book is very clear and concise; it can be read in just a few hours. It starts by describing what ethical wills are and their history. Next, it identifies reasons for creating your own ethical will. The book then provides three different approaches to writing an ethical will: 1) start with an outline and a list of items to choose from; 2) start with an outline and specific writing exercises to complete; and 3) start with a blank sheet of paper. Anyone can complete a first draft of their ethical will very quickly, and then refine it over time. The book also discusses living wills (or advanced medical directives), and includes many examples of actual ethical wills. This book is best for those individuals who already are motivated to write an ethical will and want to quickly finish a draft.

Lots of good ideas we've incorporated in the intro to our will. Much to think about with each other and with friends and relatives who are open to talking about such things. Best to have the conversations sooner rather than later and this is a great place to start.

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