



YOUR FRIEND FOR LIFE AND BEYOND

The Succession Planning Guide

Everything your family needs to know about wills, succession, and protecting the people who matter most.

< 10%

of Indians have a will

25+ yrs

to resolve inheritance disputes

Rs.1.8T

lies unclaimed across institutions

Someone who cares about you shared this guide with you.

That small act of sharing says something big. It means someone in your life wants to make sure your family is prepared, protected, and never left guessing. We are grateful to them, and we hope this guide helps you as much as it helped them.

www.myafterlife.in

Free to read. Free to share. No sign-up required.

WHY THIS GUIDE EXISTS

This guide was created for one reason.

Most Indian families are not prepared for what happens when someone they depend on is no longer around. Not because they don't care, but because no one talks about it. No one explains it simply. And by the time it becomes urgent, it's already too late.

This guide breaks down the basics of succession planning in plain, everyday language. No jargon. No legal complexity. Just the things every family should know but most never get told.

What's inside this guide

Section 1 — 8 common beliefs about wills and succession that are wrong

Section 2 — A complete checklist to make sure nothing falls through the cracks

Section 3 — A sample will format you can reference

Section 4 — Tools and calculators to assess where you stand

Each section is designed to be useful on its own. Read what matters to you, skip what doesn't.

Who is this guide for?

If you have a bank account — you need a succession plan.

If you have dependents — your family needs clarity, not court cases.

If you have insurance or investments — nominations alone are not enough.

If someone depends on you financially — this guide is for you.

It does not matter how old you are, how much you earn, or how many assets you own. What matters is that the people who depend on you are not left guessing.

"The best time to plan was yesterday. The second best time is right now."

SECTION 01

8 Things Most People Get Wrong About Wills and Succession

These are the beliefs that stop families from taking action. Every single one of them is either completely wrong or dangerously incomplete.

01

WRONG**"Only wealthy people need a will."****ACTUALLY**

Anyone with a bank account, insurance policy, vehicle, or dependents needs a will. Even a savings account with Rs.50,000 can get trapped in legal limbo for years without one.

02

WRONG**"A will must be written on stamp paper to be valid."****ACTUALLY**

A will can be written on plain paper. No stamp paper needed. Registration is optional but recommended. What matters is that it's signed by you and witnessed by two people.

03

WRONG**"My family will sort it out after I'm gone."****ACTUALLY**

Without a will, succession follows rigid inheritance laws — not your wishes. This often leads to family disputes, delayed claims, and assets going to unintended heirs.

04

WRONG**"Once I write a will, it's final."****ACTUALLY**

You can update your will as many times as you want, for free. Life changes — marriages, children, new assets — and your will should reflect your current reality. On Afterlife, updating takes less than 5 minutes.

SECTION 01 (CONTINUED)

05

WRONG**"A will is only needed by older people."****ACTUALLY**

Accidents and illness don't check your age. If you have anyone who depends on you — a spouse, a child, aging parents — a will is essential right now, not someday.

06

WRONG**"Joint accounts automatically go to the co-holder."****ACTUALLY**

Joint accounts follow different rules depending on the account mandate (Either or Survivor, Former or Survivor, etc.). A nomination or will is still needed to ensure smooth transfer.

07

WRONG**"Nominations replace the need for a will."****ACTUALLY**

A nominee is a custodian, not the legal heir. Without a will, the nominee holds the assets but legal heirs can — and often do — challenge ownership in court.

08

WRONG**"Digital assets don't need planning."****ACTUALLY**

Crypto wallets, online bank accounts, email, cloud storage — without access credentials or a plan, these assets are often permanently lost. Most platforms have no inheritance process.

Think you got all of these right?

In a quiz on our website, only 32% of participants scored above 75% on basic succession questions. The average score was 4.8 out of 8. We all think this is common sense — but most of us get the basics wrong.

Test yourself: www.myafterlife.in/features/digital-will

SECTION 02

Your Succession Readiness Checklist

Print this page. Go through each item. Tick off what's done, and note what needs action. This single page can save your family years of confusion and lakhs in legal costs.

Documents & Legal

- Write a legally valid will covering all assets, beneficiaries, and guardianship. [\[Will\]](#)
- Register your will with the Sub-Registrar's office for added legal strength. [\[Registration\]](#)
- Appoint an executor you trust to carry out the terms of your will. [\[Executor\]](#)
- Store original documents (property deeds, insurance policies, FD receipts) in a secure, known location. [\[Storage\]](#)
- Keep digital copies of all documents in a secure vault with trusted contact access. [\[Backup\]](#)

Financial Accounts

- List every bank account, FD, and RD with account numbers and branch details. [\[Banking\]](#)
- Document all insurance policies — life, health, vehicle, property — with nominees. [\[Insurance\]](#)
- Record mutual fund folios, demat account details, and equity holdings. [\[Investments\]](#)
- Note PPF, EPF, NPS, and gratuity details with nominee information. [\[Retirement\]](#)
- Update nominations on every financial account to match your will. [\[Nominations\]](#)

Digital & Personal

- Create a list of digital assets: email, social media, cloud storage, crypto wallets. [\[Digital\]](#)
- Store access credentials securely — not on paper that can be lost. [\[Security\]](#)
- Assign at least one trusted person who can access your information when needed. [\[Access\]](#)
- Share the existence (not details) of your assets with a family member. [\[Communication\]](#)
- Review and update everything at least once a year or after any major life event. [\[Maintenance\]](#)

Everything above, in one place

Afterlife lets you do all of this from a single platform — Digital Vault for asset records, Digital Will for your wishes, Trusted Contacts for access, and personal messages for your loved ones. Everything organised, encrypted, and ready to be delivered when it matters.

www.myafterlife.in

SECTION 03

Sample Will Format

This is a simplified reference of the kind of will you can create on Afterlife in under 10 minutes. For a legally binding will, always have it witnessed and consider professional advice for registration.

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

I, **[Full Legal Name]**, resident of **[Full Address]**, **[City]**, **[State]**, **[PIN Code]**, aged **[Age]** years, of sound mind and free will, do hereby declare this to be my Last Will and Testament, revoking all previous wills and codicils.

1. FAMILY DETAILS

I am **[married/unmarried]**. My spouse's name is **[Spouse Name]**. I have **[number]** children: **[Child 1]**, **[Child 2]**.

2. EXECUTOR

I appoint **[Executor Name]**, residing at **[Address]**, as the Executor. Alternate: **[Alternate Executor Name]**.

3. DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS

3.1 Immovable Property

Property at **[Address]** to **[Beneficiary]**, my **[relationship]**, in absolute ownership.

3.2 Bank Accounts & Fixed Deposits

Savings and FD at **[Bank]**, A/C **[XXXX]**, equally between **[Beneficiary 1]** and **[Beneficiary 2]**.

3.3 Insurance Policies

Life insurance **[Policy No.]** with **[Company]** to **[Beneficiary]**.

3.4 Mutual Funds & Investments

All MF holdings under folio **[XXXX]** to **[Beneficiary]**.

3.5 Digital Assets

Digital assets (email, cloud, crypto, social media) to be managed by **[Trusted Contact]** as per instructions in my Digital Vault.

4. GUARDIANSHIP

If both myself and my spouse are deceased, **[Guardian Name]** at **[Address]** shall be the legal guardian of my minor children.

5. RESIDUAL ESTATE

Assets not mentioned above to be distributed equally among **[Beneficiary 1, 2, 3]**.

Date: _____ Place: _____

Signature: _____

WITNESSES:

1. Name: _____ Signature: _____ Address: _____

2. Name: _____ Signature: _____ Address: _____

On Afterlife, you answer guided questions and the will is generated automatically in a legally structured format. You can update it unlimited times and download as PDF.

SECTION 04

Tools to Help You Get Started

Before you plan, understand where you stand. These tools are available free on the Afterlife website.

Succession Planning Quiz

Test what you actually know about wills, nominations, and succession law. 8 quick questions, instant scoring, and a full explanation for every answer. Takes less than 2 minutes.

www.myafterlife.in/features/digital-will

Estate Distribution Calculator

See exactly how your assets would be split among legal heirs under Indian succession laws (Hindu Succession Act, Indian Succession Act, or Muslim Personal Law). Input your family structure and see the distribution — with and without a will.

www.myafterlife.in

Claim Readiness Checker

A 10-point assessment that tells you whether your family could claim your assets without complications. Covers nominations, documentation, KYC, and digital assets.

www.myafterlife.in/features/claim-assistance

All these tools are accessible on www.myafterlife.in. The quiz and calculators are free to use — no payment or commitment needed.

AFTERLIFE[✦]

Your family deserves clarity.

Not confusion. Not court cases. Not years of waiting.
A succession plan takes less than 10 minutes to start.

Start Your Succession Plan

Create your Digital Will. Secure your documents in the Digital Vault.
Assign Trusted Contacts. Write messages for your loved ones.

www.myafterlife.in

Available on Web, iOS, and Android

Now it's your turn to be that person.

Someone cared enough to send this to you.
Now think of one person in your life who needs to read this.

Your parents. Your sibling. Your best friend. That cousin who thinks "we'll figure it out later."

One share. Two minutes of their time. And maybe — just maybe — an entire family avoids years of confusion, paperwork, and heartbreak.

That's not a forward. That's a gift.

www.myafterlife.in/features/digital-will

AL Experiences and Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

This guide is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal or financial advice. Please consult qualified professionals for specific guidance.