



Our services

If you like the idea of an ethical will but you...

- ▶ can't seem to get around to writing one
- ▶ don't know how to start or what to say
- ▶ aren't comfortable as a writer

...let us help.

A team of professionals skilled in interviewing, writing, editing, and coaching, we will...

- ▶ Help you identify the values, stories, and messages that matter most
- ▶ Guide you through our multi-step process to find the right words and messages for each of your intended recipients
- ▶ Provide the level of support you desire—whether editing, writing, or serving as your sounding board
- ▶ Work closely with you to make sure that your ethical will reflects your unique voice
- ▶ Deliver a finished product with options of your choice, such as:
 - ▶ archival paper
 - ▶ photographs
 - ▶ genealogy chart
- ▶ Assure you of confidentiality at all times



Our team

Joy Elbaum, Esq. and Susan Goodman, M.Ed. are the principals of Passages, a consulting group that assists individuals in preparing ethical wills.

Joy has over twenty years' experience as a lawyer, including ten years with a firm focusing on work and family issues. She brings to Passages the analytical, problem-solving, and communications skills she honed as an attorney. These skills, along with her training in gathering information, defusing disputes, and identifying the most relevant facts and issues, enable Joy to efficiently and incisively serve our ethical will clients.

Susan has a master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. For over twenty years, she has developed services for older adults and their families. As a resource to local oral history projects, Susan pursues her life-long interest in recording peoples' stories. Susan's interviewing and writing skills help define and communicate our clients' life learnings to their loved ones.

Contact us at:

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PASSAGESSM

personal
and family
legacy
services

*Passing your values
to future generations*

Defining your legacy through an ethical will

What is an ethical will?

An ethical will speaks from your heart to communicate your values and learnings and preserve your voice for your loved ones. Unlike the conventional “last will and testament,” which distributes only material goods, this informal document imparts the treasures of the writer’s heart—values, rather than valuables.

Rooted in Biblical tradition, ethical wills have become increasingly popular in recent times. Some choose to share and discuss their ethical will during their lifetime, while others intend it as a complement to a conventional will, to be read when the will is read.

A properly crafted ethical will can create a legacy for generations to come. Your ethical will may be the most treasured gift that your loved ones ever receive.

Why create an ethical will?

There are many reasons to create an ethical will, and many rewards to be gained:

- ▶ Personal journeying to uncover your deepest values—and create a roadmap for those seeking to embrace them
- ▶ Influencing how you will be remembered and your legacy fulfilled
- ▶ Communicating the values underlying your monetary choices
- ▶ Keeping family stories and memories alive
- ▶ Averting and/or healing family rifts
- ▶ Communicating with future generations

When might you write an ethical will?

Engagement or marriage—to share with each other those matters closest to your hearts

Expectant and new parents—to preserve your first feelings for your child and embark on a path of mindful parenting

Preparing your will or estate plan—to explain the choices reflected in these documents

Launching your children into the world—to guide and support them as they begin their own journeys

Divorce—to assure your children that your love for them is constant, and to affirm your hopes for their future

Facing a challenging situation—to assess your life experiences and share your perspective for the future

“There are stars whose radiance is visible on earth even though they have been long extinct...”

—Hannah Senesh