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**Signing And Witnessing Your Will**

**By News Canada**

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by: **News Canada**

(NC)–Signing and witnessing is critical to the legal validity of your Will and requirements differ from province to province.

**Witnesses**

You and your two witnesses sign the document in each other's presence and also initial each page.

Neither your beneficiaries (someone who benefits from your Will) nor their spouses should be witnesses.

As one or both witnesses may be called upon to give evidence as to the execution of your Will, they should be residents of Canada. It is recommended that your witnesses be younger in age than you.

In addition, a document required for the "probate" of the Will (called an affidavit of execution) should be signed and sworn by one of the witnesses, shortly after the Will is signed.

**A Regular Review**

Once you have drafted your Will, don't allow it to become outdated. A Will drafted a few years ago reflects your thinking and lifestyle at that time. Consider what may have changed:

Tax laws – your Will should reflect the latest tax saving strategies.

Family circumstances – a birth, a death, or a move to a new province may indicate the need for a revision to your Will. Marriage necessitates a new Will.

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Your investments – your stocks have increased (or decreased) in value. You have purchased property, acquired a work of art or started a small business.

Your wishes – you may now want to add a new beneficiary, change your Executor, or increase your support to organizations

If you do not have a Will, or if your Will has not been updated recently, perhaps it is time to meet with a lawyer and get the job done. Take the first step; call Ontario March of Dimes toll-free at 1-800-263-3463 x 383 for a free copy of "My Personal Organizer" – a handy estate planning tool.

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Editors: These articles are for use in Ontario only

### **Signing With Your Baby: Helpful Hints**

**By Monica Beyer**

#### **Signing With Your Baby: Helpful Hints by Monica Beyer**

While there aren't any solid rules regarding signing with your baby, I've had enough experience signing with my own child that I can pass along some helpful hints.

Be consistent. Use the sign the same way every time for the same action or object. This will help your

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baby become familiar with the sign and she will be able to sign it back to you sooner.

Be happy. Frowning and bored voices will not make a baby eager to sign.

Be open to interpretation. Babies will not always make a sign correctly the first time they sign it, just like they won't speak a word correctly the first time they speak it. Keep signing the word the correct way and your baby will soon grow more accurate.

Be open to suggestion. Sometimes a baby will create a sign for herself. Feel free to continue using it, and applaud her creativity.

Be praising. Act excited when the baby uses a sign correctly, and let your baby know how wonderful you think he is.

Be expressive. Use your face and body in addition to your hands. You can also say the word as you sign it.

Be patient. Babies can take weeks or even months before they make their first sign.

Most importantly, don't think of signing as a skill that has to be mastered. Instead, think of it as what it is intended to be – a bridge of communication before your baby can talk!

Monica Beyer is the mother of two sons and has been signing with her younger son for over 1 year. Visit her website at <http://www.signingbaby.com> or email her at [monica@signingbaby.com](mailto:monica@signingbaby.com)

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