

KNOW THE DIFFERENT TERMS OF A WILL

So you want to make a will but don't know the difference between a testator and a beneficiary? You've come to the right place.

More people are keen to make wills today, with lawyers reporting increased queries about wills and powers of attorney, according to [The Straits Times](#). This could be because COVID-19 has reminded people about the frailty of life and pushed them to make sure that their partners, loved ones and families are taken care of after their passing.

Wills can sometimes be a taboo topic, with the superstitious among us preferring not to “tempt fate” by even thinking about death and estate planning. But the reality is, a will can help bereaved families by removing the trouble of guessing the wishes of their deceased love one.

Here are some common terms that you may encounter when planning your will and what they mean:

- **Testator:** The person who makes a will.
- **Beneficiary:** As its name suggests, this refers to someone who “receives an inheritance through a will.
- **Executor:** The person you appoint to carry out the actions in your will.
- **Guardian:** Someone you appoint to be legally responsible for a minor.
- **Codicil:** Typically attached to the original will, a codicil makes additions to your original will, explaining, modifying, or revoking the will or part of it.
- **Probate:** The legal process through which a court examines, approves and carries out the terms of a will is known as probate.
- **Wills Registry:** A national database where you can deposit information about a person's will, such as who drew up the will and where it is held. It is operated by the [Singapore Academy of Law](#).

The information above does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice; instead, all information, content, and materials available on this site are for general informational purposes only. Do consult a lawyer should you have further queries about a will or a will-making process.