

Baha'i Estate Planning: Introduction

By: Martin M. Shenkman and Nancy
Roberts, Esq.



A KEY ESTATE
PLANNING GUIDE

Law Easy



ChronicIllnessPlanning.org

Personal views of the Authors!

- It must be emphasized that the views expressed in this PowerPoint and video are the personal views and opinions of the presenters. They are not the official opinion of the Baha'i Faith as a whole or of any institution of the Baha'i Faith and should not be treated as such.

Letters of Instruction

- Abdu'l-Baha tried to encapsulate the Faith as follows:
- ***"To be a Baha'i simply means to love all the world; to love humanity and try to serve it; to work for universal peace and universal brotherhood."***
- This and other Baha'i concepts can be embodied in letters of instruction, and directions to guardians of minor children with respect to the way children should be reared and trust expenditures for children handled.

Baha'i Law instructs every Baha'i to write a Will

- “Unto everyone hath been enjoined the writing of a will.”
- Bahá'u'lláh, “The Kitáb-i-Aqdas,” paragraph 109

Provisions Baha'i Clients may request:

- a testimonium provision;
- a will header with “The Greatest Name;”
- a specific list of burial provisions that comply with Baha'i law;
- a provision for the payment of Ḥuqúqu'lláh, the “Right of God;”
- a provision for charitable bequests to Baha'i institutions;

Provisions Baha'i Clients may request, cont.

- a provision instructing family members and beneficiaries or trust; and terms of the will
- a provision stating, in the event of a lapsed bequest, Baha'i intestacy law, rather than state intestacy law, applies.



Will Header

- Baha'i wills should have "The Greatest Name" on the cover page or header of the will. Here are some examples of "The Greatest Name."

'O Thou Glory of the All-Glorious,'
'In the name of God, the All-Glorious'
'He is the All-Glorious'
"Bahá'u'lláh,"
"Bahá,"
"Alláh-u-Abhá,"
"Yá Bahá'u'l- Abhá"