



Family Legacy Letter



You and your family have worked hard, contributing your efforts and your values into creating a stable and comfortable life. Passing these values to your heirs may help them understand and learn from your experiences. How long your legacy lasts may be determined by how well your heirs use this knowledge and adopt your values.

*Don't let **your** story get left behind.*
70% of wealthy families lose their wealth by the second generation and 90% by the third.

As wealth advisors we see firsthand the success and failure of legacy planning. The legal documents required to pass assets to your heirs are extremely important. We have also learned the importance of a Family Legacy Letter. A legacy letter is not a new idea rather an ancient tradition of sharing your life story, personal values, beliefs, and advice with future generations. Legal wills and trusts bequeath valuables while your legacy letter bequeaths your values. Think of your legacy letter as a love letter to your family that can preserve your story, values and the essence of who you are for generations to come.

There are many ways in which you can formulate your Family Legacy Letter that best suits your style and preferences. Some options to consider, of which you could choose one or a combination of mediums:

- It can be in written format. You can choose to type it on the computer or handwrite your letter. If you choose to handwrite it, your family will have visual memories of your writing style to share with future generations. And if you choose to type it on a computer, you'll have an electronic version that will allow you to store copies or update versions if you want to make any changes to your Legacy Letter as your life progresses.
- It can be in the form of poetry, photos, a poem, or a painting.
- You can use technology to create an audio or video recording. This would allow your family to see and hear you when you're gone as well as allow you to include things like video clips from special event and memories (ie. family vacations, weddings, etc.). You could shoot a selfie video, ask a family member to record it, or some use professional videographers.

We recommend keeping your Family Legacy Letter in a place where it can be found after you're gone. You may also want to share it with your attorney or other professional advisors and keep it with a copy of your Last Will. Further, consider sharing it with your loved ones today, while you can all enjoy together.

The questions on the next page are designed as a starting point, have fun with the questions and build on them as you create your Family Legacy Letter.

CHILDHOOD

- Where did you grow up?
- What are some of your favorite memories from your childhood?
- What is the most important thing you learned from your parents?
- What were your favorite traditions growing up?
- Where did you go to school (elementary, middle, high school, college)?
- What was your favorite or most memorable school experience?

RELATIONSHIPS

- How long have you known your best friends?
- When was the first time you fell in love?
- How did you meet your spouse/partner?
- What were your engagement and wedding like?
- How did your parents meet and fall in love?
- What was your relationship with your grandparents? Where did they live?
- What are some of your favorite memories of your children? Your grandchildren?
- What are the most important lessons you taught your children?

WORK

- What was the best job you ever had? Why?
- What was the worst job you ever had? Why?
- Why did you choose your profession?
- If you could change anything about your career, what would it be?
- If you were to do it over again, what would you become?
- What is the best career advice anyone ever gave you?

EXPERIENCES

- What are some of your most memorable experiences?
- What are the most life-changing events you have experienced?
- What are you most proud of?
- What was the hardest thing you've ever had to do?
- Who influenced you the most and why?
- What is a mistake you made that you hope your family can learn from?

VALUES & DESIRES

- What are your most important values you hope to pass on?
- What causes are important to you?
- What is your philosophy of life?
- What is your philosophy around money?
- What do you wish for your children?
- What do you wish for your grandchildren?

JUST FOR FUN

- What is your favorite song? Who is your favorite artist?
- What is your favorite movie? Who is/are your favorite actress and/or actor?
- What is your favorite book?
- Who is your favorite author?
- What sports do/did you play?
- Which sports teams are your favorite(s)?
- What are your hobbies?
- What is your favorite quote?