

Sample Letter of Wishes

Trustee,

This Letter of Wishes is intended to be a guide for you when considering discretionary distributions for my heirs. I intend to convey my hopes, thoughts, concerns and desires for my heirs.

1. My overall focus is ensuring the well-being and health of my heirs. I want to ensure they are happy in their lives and that they become/remain intellectually curious.
2. It is important to me that my heirs have strong values, work ethics and morals. I also desire they have a welcoming and supportive environment that promotes peace, love, support and happiness. I implore them to maintain good judgment, remain compassionate and trust in themselves.
3. Financial independence with a strong sense of self-worth is important and will provide them an appreciation for hard work and being the best version of themselves they can be.
4. While becoming professionally successful is of importance, I want to provide a means for them to balance the ability to focus on passions that perhaps are not related to their ability to earn a living. Education and work should always be a focal point in their lives; however, they need to ensure they are – participating in and providing for their heirs – a sense of focus in the greater good while remaining engaged and productive in their professional endeavors. Philanthropy – not only with money but with time – is important to our family.
5. Barring anything out of my heir's control, it is my strong desire that this trust not be a sole support for their daily living. This trust should be viewed as a supplement to their hard work and not a replacement.
6. My heirs should find a career path that ensures them happiness and a sense of fulfillment. As long as my heirs are working to the best of their ability, I want to ensure the money is available. I expect you to consider their circumstances and potential future needs, as well as their life expectancy.
7. Important to my family is a good education, good health and family. I want my heirs to be able to spend time with family and therefore I want to ensure travel and hobbies are a strong consideration in making distributions; however, not to the exclusion of education and work.
8. I want my trustees to consider special purpose distributions – such as getting married, purchasing a first home or starting a business. I would want all factors weighed exactly how I would have weighed them had an heir approached me for this request. Focusing on such things as the age of the heir, the maturity, education, sense of determination and judgment of the heir. Also considering the financial needs of the heir.
9. It is important to me that my heirs understand the needs of a budget and a financial plan. Therefore, when making repetitive distributions for normal expenses to my heirs, I find it important that my heirs prepare a budget and have a plan for their future.
10. It is with love in my heart and the understanding that this Letter of Wishes will only be used once I have either become disabled or died, that I have provided this guidance to the trustees.

Please use your best judgment, the trust document and this Letter of Wishes to guide my family with your wisdom, knowledge and integrity.

Sincerely,

John Doe

Sample- For illustrative purposes only

Trusts are not necessarily appropriate for all clients. There are risks and considerations which may outweigh any potential benefits. Establishing a trust will incur fees and expenses which may be substantial. Trusts often incur ongoing administrative fees and expenses such as the services of a corporate trustee or tax professional.

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CRC #3760182 08/2024

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