

# BEST LAW OFFICES

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## 2021 Base Fees for Wills and Powers of Attorney

The base fee for a spouses' package of Wills, Powers of Attorney for Property and Powers of Attorney for Personal Care is **\$900.00 plus HST, plus disbursements** (e.g. photocopies, and any necessary title searching of property).

The base fee for an individual Will, together with individual Powers of Attorney for Property and Personal Care is **\$600.00 plus HST, plus disbursements**.

The above base fees are for simple Wills and Powers of Attorney. More complicated Wills (for example, those involving trusts) will cost more. The lawyer will be able to determine whether the Wills are simple after our first meeting.

Your fee will usually be expressly agreed to with us, usually **after** your first appointment where we have obtained your instructions. Because we first need to meet and discuss your specific circumstances and instructions, *we cannot guarantee your fee ahead of time* – thank you for your understanding.

## What to expect – what is the process?

Making Wills and Powers of Attorney is a 2 appointment process. Both spouses/partners (if applicable) must attend both appointments. We may ask you to pay a deposit towards the total fee in advance of, or at the end of the first appointment. Often however, we do not require payment up front of a deposit and we collect your payment at the second appointment, when you have returned to sign the documents.

You (and your spouse, if applicable) will meet with the lawyer alone. No one else should come into the meeting with you. If you are getting a ride to the

appointment, that person will need to wait outside the office (due to covid-19 restrictions).

The first appointment will take between 40 minutes-1 hour and you should come prepared with copies of your current Will and Powers of Attorney (if any), the names and addresses of family and friends, and a summary of your assets (e.g. all real estate including home, cottage, vacant land, income property, bank accounts, investments, insurance, vehicles, personal property, business assets, loans payable to you) and liabilities (e.g. mortgages, loans owing by you etc). Be sure to note which assets are held jointly, whether with a spouse or any other person. Note which assets have named beneficiaries (e.g. life insurance, RSP etc) and who those beneficiaries are. If you are separated or divorced please bring a copy of any relevant documents such as your signed separation agreement.

We may ask you to complete and return to our office (prior to your first appointment) an intake form, as part of the information gathering process.

After your first appointment, the lawyer is typically prepared to begin drafting your Wills and Powers of Attorney, based on the information gathered and discussed at the first meeting. We may need to follow up with you for more information, either by telephone or with a second in person appointment, depending on the circumstances.

Typically, after the first appointment, we can schedule the second appointment with you (usually at least 3-4 weeks later, but sometimes it can be sooner) for you to return to sign the Wills and Powers of Attorney. Please ensure you can keep the second appointment as all the documents will be prepared with that date.

At the second appointment we will meet to review the prepared documents, the lawyer will answer any final questions and we will sign the documents together. The second appointment typically takes 20-30 minutes.

At the second appointment, the lawyer will discuss with you where to store your signed documents. Our office does not offer storage of original documents. You will be taking the signed original Wills and Powers of Attorney home with you it is our practice to keep a photocopy only.

We will have the bill prepared for the second appointment, and we require full payment at that time. Methods of payment include credit card, debit, cheque and cash.