



In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful.

CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF MASAJID

P. O. Box 4456, Hamden, CT 06514. Tel. 203-562-2757



LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

In the preparation of this form many relevant Islamic and legal publications, an attorney and an Islamic scholar were consulted, to ensure that it meets the Islamic as well as the legal requirements. The Amirs of all the masajid in Connecticut were sent prepublication copies to suggest any changes or improvements. All such comments received have been considered and incorporated into the form wherever necessary.

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LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

OF _____ SS# _____

ARTICLE I: PREAMBLE

All praise is for **Allah** the creator of the heavens. I praise Him, I seek His help and His forgiveness. I believe in Him and put my trust entirely in Him. I seek refuge with **Allah** from the evils of myself and my deeds. Whom **Allah** guides no one can mislead and whom **Allah** misleads no one can guide. I testify that there is no god except **Allah**, He is one and has no partners and I further testify that Muhammed (peace and blessing of **Allah** be upon him) is **Allah**'s servant and messenger.

I _____ a Muslim, presently resident of _____, being of sound mind and memory declare that the following is my will (*waseeat*). I do hereby revoke any and all former wills and codicils that I have previously made.

I ask all my relatives, friends, and others, whether they be Muslims or non-Muslims, to honor my right to be a Muslim. I ask them to honor the spirit and letter of this document and not to try to obstruct or change it in any way. Let them see to it that I am buried as a Muslim should be and my properties are divided as I wanted them to be divided according to the Sunni Muslim laws of inheritance. I ordain that under no circumstances should the contents of this will be changed voluntarily. If the local laws force noncompliance even after protest, the executor is relieved of any burden.

ARTICLE II: MY IMMEDIATE FAMILY

1. I am married to _____ and all references in this will to my husband/wife are to him/her.
2. I am the father/mother of the following children whose names and dates of birth are:
 1. _____ 2. _____
 3. _____ 4. _____
 5. _____ 6. _____

ARTICLE III: EXECUTOR AND BENEFICIARY

1. I hereby give all my estate: cash, bank accounts, real property, shares in any business, and any other property not mentioned in this will, to the person named below, who shall act also as an executor to serve without bond, to distribute it according to Sunni Muslim Shariah.

My husband/wife _____ or, if he/she fails to survive me by 45 days, _____ or, if he/she fails to survive me by 45 days, _____ or, if he/she fails to survive me by 45 days, _____ or, if he/she fails to survive me by 45 days, the Imam of the local Sunni Muslim community.

2. I ordain that the executor of this will be a Muslim.
3. I direct that the executor take all actions legally permissible to have the probate of my estate done as simply and as expeditiously as possible.

4. I give my executor named above power to sell any property, real, personal or mixed, in which I have interest, without a court order and without bond.
5. I give my executor power to settle any claim for or against my estate.

ARTICLE IV: BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS

I ordain that :

1. My body be prepared for burial in keeping with the Sunni Muslim Law (*Shariah*).
2. Under no circumstances my body be voluntarily turned over for an autopsy, or embalming or for organ donation.
3. My body be prepared for burial by Sunni Muslims according to the dictate of *Shariah* (Sunni Islamic Law). Once the body is prepared for burial there is to be no viewing of my remains.
4. Absolutely no non-Islamic religious service or observance shall be conducted upon my death, or on my body or at the grave site. No pictures, crescents and stars, decorations, crosses, flags, any symbols or music be involved at any stage of my burial.
5. My body may not be transported over any unreasonable distance from the locality of death unless necessitated by the circumstances or consensus of my Muslim family members.
6. My grave be dug in complete accord with the Islamic practice. It should face in the direction of the Qiblah (towards the Ka'aba at Makkah, Saudi Arabia).
7. My body be buried without casket or any other encasement that separates the shroud from the surrounding soil.
8. My grave be covered with dirt only. The marking, if necessary, should be a simple rock. There should be no inscriptions or symbols.
9. My burial should take place as soon as possible, preferably before sunset on the day of my death or the following day. Under no circumstances should the burial be unduly delayed.

ARTICLE V: CUSTODY OF MINOR CHILDREN AND GUARDIAN

If at my death any of my children are minors I recommend that my husband/wife _____ be appointed guardian of the person(s) of my minor children, provided he/she is a Muslim. If he/she is unable or unwilling to serve as personal guardian, I recommend that _____ be appointed guardian of the person(s) of my minor children. If he/she is unable or unwilling to serve as personal guardian, I recommend that _____ be appointed guardian of the person(s) of my minor children. In all cases I urge that all my minor children be raised to be practicing Muslims and not in any way be indoctrinated into any other faith or religion. I direct that no bond be required of any personal guardian. Any property or other inheritance that this will give to any of my minor children shall be administered by their personal guardian in the best interest of the children.

ARTICLE VI: DEBTS AND EXPENSES

I direct my executor:

1. To return to the rightful owners all trust and properties that are in my care at the time of my death.
2. To first apply the assets of my estate to the payment of all my legal debts, including such expenses incurred by

my last illness and burial as well as the expenses of the administration of my estate.

- 3. To pay any outstanding “obligations due to **Allah**” (*huquq Allah*) which are binding on me including unpaid *zakat*, *kaffaraat* of unperformed pilgrimage (Hajj), etc.
- 4. To pay all inheritance, estate and succession taxes payable by reason of my death, out of and charged generally against the principal of my residuary estate.

ARTICLE VII: BEQUESTS

I direct my executor to:

- 1. Pay the following amount from the remainder of my estate after paying all the expenses mentioned above, to the person/s or organization/s named below. The total must not exceed 33 percent of the remainder of my estate.

- 1. _____ % of the total remainder
- 2. _____ % of the total remainder
- 3. _____ % of the total remainder
- 4. _____ % of the total remainder
- 5. _____ % of the total remainder
- TOTAL BEQUESTS** (must not be more than 33%) _____ % of the total remainder

ARTICLE VIII: DISTRIBUTION OF THE REMAINDER OF MY ESTATE

I direct my executor to:

- 1. Distribute the residue and remainder of my estate strictly in accordance with the tenets of Sunni Muslim law of inheritance.
- 2. Ensure that no part of the remainder of my estate shall be inherited by any non-Muslim, no matter how he/she is related to me.
- 3. Ensure that, should I die as a result of murder, no part of the remainder of my estate shall be inherited by my adjured murderer responsible for direct unlawful killing (actionable homicide), no matter how he/she is related to me.
- 4. Ensure that no part of the remainder of my estate shall be inherited by a person whose claimed relationship to me, ascending or descending, is the result of a non-Islamic or unlawful marriage, or through adoption, except if this relationship to me is through his/her mother who is biologically (through blood) related to me or if he/she is specifically mentioned in **bequests** above.
- 5. Regard a fetus, conceived before my death, whose relationship to me qualifies it to be an heir according to this article if it is born alive within the limit of time specified by Shariah. If such a fetus exists at the time of my death, the executor may delay the distribution of the residue and remainder of my estate after the execution of

Articles I to VII, until after the birth of the fetus. If he/she chooses to distribute the estate prior to the birth of the fetus then he must withhold a portion of the estate equal to the share of the fetus for distribution until after the birth of the fetus.

6. That in case of any difficulty in distributing my estate according to this will, the matter should be referred to a Muslim knowledgeable in Islamic Inheritance Law for advice and guidance.

7. That all the residue and remainder of my estate after the execution of Articles I to VII and Article VIII sections 1 to 6 above be donated to the following person/s or organization/s for the establishment of Islamic communities and Masajid. _____

8. That any portion of my estate disclaimed or refused to be received by any of the legatees named or referred to in this document be donated to the following person/s or organization/s for the establishment of Islamic communities and Masajid. _____

ARTICLE IX: SEPARABILITY

I direct that no part of this will be invalidated by a court unless competent in Sunni Muslim Law. If any part of this will is determined invalid by a court the other parts shall remain valid and enforceable.

I subscribe my name to this will this day _____ at _____ and do hereby declare that I sign and execute this instrument as my last will and that I sign it willingly, that I execute it as my free and voluntary act for the purposes therein expressed, and that I am of the age of majority or otherwise legally empowered to make a will, and under no constraint or undue influence.

Name	Signature	Date

WITNESSES

On this _____ day of _____ 19____, _____ declared to us, the undersigned, that this instrument was his/her will and requested us to act as witnesses to it. He/She thereupon signed this will in our presence, all of us being present at the same time. We now, at his/her request, in his/her presence, and in the presence of each other, subscribe our names as witnesses and declare that we understand this to be his/her last will, and that to the best of our knowledge the testator is of the age of majority, or is otherwise legally empowered to make a will, and under no constraint or undue influence.

We declare under penalty or perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Witness 1.		
signature	date	name and address
Witness 2.		
signature	date	name and address
Witness 3.		
signature	date	name and address

**SCHEDULE
SURVIVORS AND THEIR SHARE**

("AS ABOVE" MEANS ALL THE CONDITIONS THAT PRECEDE IN THIS SCHEDULE)

1. No survivors or any of the conditions mentioned below: after meeting all the conditions described in articles I to IX and in this schedule all remainder should be given to _____

2. One or more sons, and/or one or more daughters, no other: He or she or they get all remainder, sons get equal amount and daughters get equal amount. Daughter/s get only half as much total as son/s. If there are other survivor/s, wife/husband/mother/father, grand parents receive they get their share before son/s and daughter/s.
3. Wife: She gets 1/8 (12.5%); rest as above. If no other survivors she gets 1/4 (25%); rest as above. If more than one wife they divide wives' share equally among them.
4. Husband: He gets 1/4 (25%); rest as above. If no other survivors he gets 1/2 (50%) rest as above.
5. Father: He gets 1/6 (16.67%); rest as above. If no other survivors he gets all. If only father and mother survive mother gets 1/3 and father the rest. If only father and one daughter survive: Father gets 1/2 (50%) and the daughter gets 1/2 (50%). If only father and more than one daughters survive: Father gets 1/3 (33.33) and the daughters divide equally the rest 2/3 (66.67%).
6. Mother: She gets 1/6 (16.67%); rest as above. If no other survivors she gets all. If father and mother survive mother gets 1/3 and father the rest. If only mother and one daughter survive: Mother gets 1/4 (25%) and the daughter gets 3/4 (75%). If only mother and more than one daughters survive: Mother gets 1/5 (20%) and the daughters divide equally the rest 4/5 (80%).
(Any combination of 2 to 6: Spouse and parent get their share before offspring.)
7. Father, mother and one daughter; no other: Father gets 1/3, mother 1/6 and daughter 1/2. If more than one daughter: Father and mother get 1/6 each and 2/3 equally divided among the daughters.
8. Father, wife and one daughter, no other: 1/3 to father, 1/8 to wife and 1/2 to daughter. If more than one daughter: 2/3 equally divided among them, 1/8 to wife and 5/24 to father.
9. Mother, wife and one daughter, no other: 1/8 to wife, 7/32 to mother and 21/32 to daughter. If more than one daughter: 1/8 to wife, 7/40 to mother and 7/10 equally divided among the daughters.
10. Father, mother, wife and one daughter: 1/8 to wife, 1/6 to mother, 5/24 to father, and 1/2 to daughter. If more than one daughter: 3/37 to wife, 4/27 to mother, 4/27 to father and 16/27 equally divided among the daughters.
11. Husband, father and one daughter: 1/4 to husband, 1/4 to father and 1/4 to daughter. If more than one daughter: 3/13 to husband, 2/13 to father, and 8/13 to daughters equally.
12. Husband, mother and one daughter: 1/4 husband, 7/36 to mother, 5/9 to daughter. If more than one daughter: 3/13 to husband, 2/13 to mother and 8/13 to daughters equally.
13. Husband, parents and one daughter: 3/13 to husband, 2/13 to mother, 2/13 to father and 6/13 to daughter. If more than one daughter: 3/15 to husband, 2/15 to mother, 2/15 to father and 8/15 to daughters equally.
14. For any other combination of survivors the following principles would be followed and their share determined in consultation with a knowledgeable Muslim.

For explanation of technical terms an authentic book on Islamic Law of Inheritance may be consulted. One such book is "Islamic Law of Inheritance" by Muhammad Mustafa Khan, published by Kitab Bhavan, New Delhi, India.

THE GOLDEN PRINCIPLES OF ISLAMIC LAW OF INHERITANCE

Position of Spouses

- (1). The husband is entitled to 1/2 (maximum) or 1/4 (minimum) share from the property of his deceased wife or wives.
- (2). The wife or wives are entitled to 1/4 (maximum) or 1/8 (minimum) share from the property of their deceased husband.
- (3). The spouse (husband or widow/s as the case may be) get the maximum share i.e. Husband 1/2 and the widow 1/4 if the deceased spouse does not leave behind his or her (i) child and (ii) any agnatic descendant (the child of any agnatic male descendant however so low).

- (4). If the above two conditions are not satisfied the spouse is entitled only to the minimum share (1/4 in case of husband and 1/8 in case of widow/s).
- (5). Widow/s who were divorced by the deceased husband are entitled to their right of inheritance provided the divorce was '*Rajai*' (revocable) or it was '*Bain*' (irrevocable) but the husband died during the *iddat* period of the widow.
- (6). Spouses are primary heirs so they are never excluded. Neither they exclude blood relations nor they are excluded by any blood relation.

Position of Parents

- (1). Both mother and father are primary heirs so they are never excluded. If alive they are always entitled to a share: mother 1/3 (maximum) or 1/6 (minimum); father 1/6 (minimum) or the entire amount if no other heirs are present. Mother excludes all types of grandmothers maternal as well as paternal. Paternal grandmothers are also excluded by father.

Position of Grandparents

- (1). Paternal grandparents and great grandparents substitute parents if they are predeceased. The nearer one excludes the distant. However grandfather is not entitled to the special treatment; when mother and spouse are alive they take their maximum share. Grandfather does not exclude paternal grandmother. The grandmother/s, unlike mother, gets only 1/6. She never gets 1/3.

Position of Children and Descendants

- (1). Sons and daughters are primary heirs. They always inherit.
- (2). A son's daughter/s become heirs like a daughter if he, the son, is predeceased. If there is one daughter, then son's daughter/s get 1/6; if there are more than one daughter then son's daughter/s are excluded. In the presence of her male counterpart (e.g. son's son) a son's daughter becomes a residuary and shares the residue according to the principle 'double share to male'. Daughter' or son's daughter's position is not affected by marriage, dissolution of marriage, place of residence etc.
- (3). A son's son is completely excluded by a son.

Position of Brothers and Sisters.

- (1). Uterine brothers and sisters (related through mother only) do not inherit in the presence of father, grandfather, daughters, son, son's son and son's daughters.
- (2). Full brothers and sisters do not inherit in the presence of father, sons and sons' sons. They are also excluded by the true grandfathers, with few exceptions.
- (3). The full brother converts the full sisters into a residuary and they inherit the residue in the ratio 2:1. Same principle applies to consanguine brothers and sisters.

Position of Other Relatives

- (1). The following relations have no claim except if they are mentioned in No. 1 above or in article VII. Stepchildren, daughter/s-in-law, son/s-in-law, parent/s-in-law, brother/s and sister/s-in-law, adopted children, any other person not related by blood to the deceased.
- (2). In some cases where certain heirs mentioned above do not survive, certain distant blood relatives may be entitled. In all such situations, a knowledgeable Muslim may be consulted to determine their share.

Principle of Awl and Raad

- (1). Principle of *Awl* (When the total sum of the fractional shares allotted to the Quranic heirs exceeds unity, the already allotted shares are readjusted by using a procedure where all shares are reduced proportionately. This situation arises only in the presence of daughters or sisters.) and *Raad* (When the total sum of the fractional shares allotted to the Quranic heirs is less than unity. The shares are readjusted in proportion to their already allocated shares. This situation may arise in the absence of a residuary heir.) may be applied in cases where necessary.

HEALTH CARE PROXY AND LIVING WILL

If the time comes when I am incapacitated to the point where I can no longer actively take part in decisions for my own life and am unable to direct my physician as to my own medical care, I wish this statement to stand as a testament of my wishes.

I, _____ residing at _____

hereby appoint the following individual as my health care agent.

Name: _____ Phone No: _____

Address: _____

to make any and all health care decisions for me which I, myself, could make in person while competent and possessed of health care decision-making capacity; if the person named above predeceases me or if such person is otherwise unable to act, I hereby appoint the following person as my alternate agent;

Name: _____ Phone No: _____

Address: _____

This health care proxy shall take effect if and when I become unable to make my own health care decisions.

In respect of each decision made for me by my agent, it is my wish and direction that my agent be guided solely by my agent’s Islamic faith as to what my own decision would have been in the same circumstances. Without limiting the unrestricted scope of my agent’s authority hereunder, I expressly authorize my agent to direct that no treatment be conducted or withheld from me if to do so is against the teachings of Islam, to the best of understanding of my agent. I direct that medication be judiciously administered to me to alleviate pain. I do not intend any direct taking of my life. I also direct that “life support systems” may be used in a judicious manner and its use discontinued, just like any other medicine, if it becomes reasonably apparent that it has no curative value. The “life support systems” include but are not limited to artificial respiration, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, artificial means of providing nutrition and hydration, and any pharmaceutical drugs.

I direct that my family, all physicians, hospitals and other health care providers and any court or judge honor the decision of my agent/alternate agent. This request is made, after careful reflection, while I am of sound mind.

Signature: _____ dated: _____

We, the undersigned witnesses, declare that the person who signed this document is personally known to us and appears to be at least eighteen years of age, of sound mind and able to understand the nature and consequences of health care decisions at the time this document was signed, and acting willingly and free from duress. The person signed this document in our presence. We are not the persons appointed as agent or alternate agent by this document and we sign this document as witnesses on this person’s request.

Signature: _____ dated: _____

Name of Witness: _____ Address: _____

Signature: _____ dated: _____

Name of Witness: _____ Address: _____