

Washington County (Oregon) Law Library

LEGAL RESEARCH GUIDE

DISCLAIMER: *It is against state law for library staff members to engage in any conduct that might constitute the unauthorized practice of law (ORS 9.160 to 9.166). They may not interpret statutes, cases or regulations, perform legal research, recommend or assist in the preparation of forms, or advise patrons regarding their legal rights. They may, however, assist patrons in locating materials or links that would aid in individual research.*

TOPIC: **ESTATE PLANNING:** *(includes wills, advance directives, powers of attorney, and more)*

Oregon does not have any court-sanctioned, official, fill-in-the-blank estate planning forms in print or that can be downloaded, free or otherwise. Oregon legal forms are available from other sources, but you must make sure they comply with current Oregon laws:

- Check with your county Circuit Court Probate Department.
- The [Oregon State Bar \(OSB\) website](#) has information on [wills, trusts, estate law, and much more](#).
- You may find useful information at the [State of Oregon website on Probate Administration](#).
- More resources are listed at the [Oregon Legal Research blog](#): Links to [Estate Planning resources](#)

1) BOOKS/PAMPHLETS/BROCHURES (TIP: Remember, not everything is online!)

- Oregon legal practice manuals on state law and practice are available for reference at your county law libraries. For example, [Administering Oregon Estates](#), [Elder Law](#), [Guardianships, Conservatorships and Transfers to Minors](#), U.S. Banks' [Will and Trust Forms](#), [Wills & Estate Planning: Oregon Handbook](#), and [A Will is Not Enough in Oregon](#). Ask at your [county](#) or [state](#) law library for titles.
- Locate your local county law library: [Oregon Council of County Law Libraries directory \(OCCLL\)](#).
- Ask about estate planning self-help books at your public library and local bookstores. [Nolo Press](#) publishes a number of relevant titles including: [Estate Planning Basics](#), [Make Your Own Living Trust](#), [Nolo's Simple Will Book](#), [8 Ways to Avoid Probate](#), and [The Busy Family's Guide to Estate Planning](#).
- Oregon library links [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#).

2) ONLINE INFORMATION

- [Oregon State Bar \(OSB\) Public Info](#) (503-684-3763): Information on wills, trusts, probate, powers of attorney, financial planning for health care or for the elderly, taxes, powers of attorney, estate planning for parents of the disabled, and more.
- [Oregon Revised Statutes](#) (ORS): search using key words such as: wills, trusts, special needs trust, pet trust, heir, power of attorney, guardian, conservator, fiduciary, court approval, estate tax, etc.
- [Oregon Department of Human Services: Division for Seniors and People with Physical Disabilities](#) has information on powers of attorney, advance directives, basic wills and trust information, guardianship and conservatorship, and more.
- [The Oregon Medical Association](#): information on advance directives for health care and physicians orders for life sustaining treatment.
- [American Bar Association \(ABA\)](#): the ABA section on Real Property, Trust, and Estate Law has an [estate planning resources page](#).
- [U.S. Internal Revenue Service](#): publications on estate and gift taxes.
- [Cornell Law School WEX](#): basic information and links to estate planning resources

OTHER RESOURCES

- [Legal Aid Services of Oregon](#) (LASO) and [Oregon Law Help](#)
- [Oregon Law Center](#) (503-640-4115) – Hillsboro Regional Office
- [Oregon State Law Library](#) 503-986-5640
- [Oregon Judicial Department](#) (OJD) to link to your county's probate court
- A directory of [Portland Metro-Area Legal Services](#)
- [How to Find a Lawyer in Oregon](#)
- Ask an Oregon law librarian a question via email: [Oregon Libraries Network / L-net](#)

Keywords: Wills, Trusts, Advance Directives, Probate, Elder Law, Animal Law, Heirs