

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

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I, _____ presently residing at
_____ city of _____ State
of _____ being of sound mind and memory, do hereby revoke any
and all former Wills and codicils made by me, and do make, ordain, publish, and declare this my
Last Will and Testament.

PREAMBLE

I bear witness that there is no deity but Allah, the One, the Merciful, the Almighty - Creator of the heavens and the earth and all therein - God of Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Muhammad, and all the Prophets, mercy and peace be upon them all He is One God and He has no partner. And I bear witness that the Prophet Muhammad is His Servant and his Messenger and the last of all the Prophets, mercy and peace be upon him. I bear witness that Allah is the Truth, that His promise is Truth, and that the Meeting with Him is Truth. I bear witness that Paradise is Truth and that Hell is Truth. I bear witness that the coming of the Day of Judgement is Truth, there is no doubt about it, and that Allah, who is exalted about all deficiencies and imperfections, will surely resurrect the dead of all generations of mankind, first and last and those in between.

This is my counsel to my relatives and friends, my Muslim brothers and sisters, and all those who remain after me: that they strive to be true Muslims, that they submit to their Creator - may He Be exalted-and worship Him as He alone is to be worshiped, fear Him as He alone is to be feared, and love Him and His Prophet Muhammad with a complete love that is rivaled by nothing besides them. Let them obey Him and hold Fast to His *Shari'ah*. Let them spread and firmly establish His religion of Islam, and let them die only in a state of complete submission to His Will.

I remind them that no man and no woman dies before his/her time. The exact duration of each life span is precisely determined before we are born by the All-Powerful Creator, may He be exalted. Death is tragic only for the one who lived out his/her life in self-deception without submitting to the Creator and preparing for the final return to Him. So, do not preoccupy yourselves with my death, but instead make the proper preparations for your own.

Maintain patience and self-composure as the religion of Islam requires. Islam permits relatives to mourn for no more than three days, although a widow is allowed to mourn for four lunar months and ten days, until her *eddah* (period of waiting) is completed. Wailing and excessive lamentation

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is forbidden by the Creator, and it reflects only a lack of understanding and dissatisfaction with the Will of the Creator, may He be exalted.

Finally, I ask all my relatives, friends, and all others - whether they choose to believe as I believed or not - to honor my Constitutional right to these beliefs. I ask them to honor this document which I have made, and not to try to obstruct it or change it in any way. Rather, let them see that I am buried as I have asked to be buried and let my properties be divided as I wanted them to be divided.

ARTICLE I: FUNERAL AND BURIAL RIGHTS

I ordain that no autopsy or embalming be done on my body unless required by law and, without unjustified delay, my body be washed, wrapped with cloth free of any ornaments and other articles, prayed for, and then buried, which should all be done by Muslims in complete accordance with Islamic tenets.

- a. I hereby nominate and appoint _____,
residing at _____, to execute these and other necessary provisions for my Islamic funeral and burial. In the event that he/she shall be unwilling or unable to execute, I nominate and appoint _____, and in the event that he/she shall be unwilling or unable, I nominate and appoint the president of the local Muslim community or association in the area where I die to execute these provisions of funeral and burial.
- b. In the event of legal difficulties in the execution of this Article, I direct the above-named person to seek counsel from the Islamic Society of Boston, 204 Prospect St, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA, or from ISNA/CIT, currently located at 2200 South Sheridan Way Mississauga, Ontario L5J 2M4, Canada, Tel: (905) 403-8406, or any similar local Islamic organization.
- c. I ordain that absolutely no non-Islamic religious service or observance shall be conducted upon my death or on my body.
- d. I ordain that no pictures, crescents or stars, decorations, crosses, flags, any symbols-Islamic or otherwise-or music shall be involved at any stage of the process of conducting my burial or ever be placed at the site of my grave.
- e. I ordain that my body shall not be transported over any unreasonable distance from the locality of my death, particularly when such transportation would necessitate embalming, unless when long distance transportation is required to reach the nearest Muslim cemetery or

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any other cemetery selected by my Muslim family.

- f. I ordain that my grave shall be dug deep into the ground in complete accordance with the specifications of Islamic practice and that it face the direction of Qiblah (the direction of the city of Mecca in the Arabian Peninsula, towards which Muslims face for prayer).
g. I ordain that my body shall be buried without a casket or any encasement that separates the wrapped body from the surrounding soil. In the event that local laws require casket encasement, I ordain that such encasement be of the simplest, most modest, and least expensive type possible. I further ordain that the encasement be left open during burial and filled with dirt, unless prohibited by law.
h. I ordain that my grave shall be level with the ground or slightly mounded, with no construction or permanent structure of any kind over it. The marking-if necessary-should be a simple rock or marker, merely to indicate the presence of the grave. There should be no inscriptions or symbols on the said marking.

ARTICLE II: EXECUTOR AND GUARDIAN

a. I hereby nominate and appoint _____, presently residing at _____ to be the executor of this, my Last Will and Testament. In the event that he/she will be unwilling or unable to act as executor, I nominate and appoint _____ residing at _____, to be executor of this, my Last Will and Testament.

b. I give my executor herein named power to settle any claim for or against my estate and power to sell any property, real, personal, or mixed, in which I have an interest, without court order and without bond. I direct no bond or surety for any bond be required for my executor in the performance of his/her duties.

c. I hereby nominate and appoint presently residing at _____ to be the guardian of the persons and estates of such of my children who shall be minor at and after my death, during their minority, so long as said guardian remains a Muslim of sound mind and judgement. In the event he/she shall be unwilling or unable to act as guardian, I nominate and appoint _____, residing at _____ to be the guardian.

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**ARTICLE III:
DEBTS AND EXPENSES**

- a. I direct that my executor apply first, 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 administrating my estate. I direct the said executor to pay any "obligations to Allah" (Huquq Allah) which are binding on me, such as unpaid Zakah, Kaffarat, or unperformed pilgrimage (Hajj).
- b. I direct that all inheritance, state, and succession taxes (including interest and other penalties thereon) payable by reason of my death shall be paid out of and be charged generally against the principal of my residuary estate, without reimbursement from any person; except that this provision shall not be construed as a waiver of any right which my executor has, by law or otherwise, to claim reimbursement for any such taxes which become payable on account of property, if any, over which I have a power of appointment.

**ARTICLE IV:
CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS AND
TESTAMENTARY TRANSFER**

I direct and ordain my executor to pay the following contributions and transfers, not to exceed one third of the remainder of my estate after making provision for payments of my obligations mentioned in Article III, to the following named persons and organizations:

| Name of Persons or Organizations | Percent of remainder of my estate after execution of Article III | |
|----------------------------------|--|----------|
| | In figures | In words |
| 1. | | |
| 2. | (_____ %) | percent |
| 3. | (_____ %) | percent |
| 4. | (_____ %) | percent |
| Total | (_____ %) | percent |

**ARTICLE V:
DISTRIBUTION OF THE REMAINDER OF MY ESTATE**

- a. I direct, devise, and bequest all the residue and remainder of my estate after making provision for payment of my obligations and distributions provided in Article III and IV, to my Muslim heirs whose relation to me, whether ascending or descending, has occurred through Islamic or lawful marriage at each and every point. The distribution of the residue and remainder of my estate shall be made strictly in accordance with the following:

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SCHEDULE A: MAWARITH (INHERITANCE)

(This Schedule A is signed by me as a part of this Last Will and Testament)

- b. Should I die as a result of murder, I direct that the adjured murderer, principal or accessory in the murder shall be disqualified to receive any part of my estate.
- c. I direct that no part of my estate shall be given to relatives whose relationship to me, ascending or descending, has occurred through non-Islamic and unlawful marriage, or through adoption, at each and every point, except the following:
 - 1. Legatees specifically named in Article IV
 - 2. A relative who is related to me through his/her biological mother
- d. I direct and devise that any fetus, conceived before my death, whose relationship to me qualifies it to be an heir according to this Article, shall be considered as an heir if the following condition is fulfilled: the fetus should be born alive within 365 days of my death. I further direct and devise that whenever there exists a fetus who may become an heir according to this section, the whole distribution of the residue and remainder of my estate after the execution of Articles III and IV shall be delayed until after the birth of the fetus; or that the largest potential share of the fetus be set aside until its birth alive. Should the fetus be born alive, but qualify for a lesser share, or should it not be born alive within the 365 days, any surplus of the set aside amount must be returned to the estate and distributed according to Schedule A.
- e. I direct, devise, and bequest all the residue and remainder of my estate of every nature and kind and whenever situated after making provisions for payments of my obligations and distribution of my estate as provided in Articles III and IV I further direct, devise, and ordain that any portion of my estate disclaimed or refused to be received by any of the legatees named or referred to in this Last Will and Testament, or the remainder of my estate in the event of non-existence of my Islamic heirs, shall be given to any Islamic organization established in North America as a contribution for establishing Islamic schools, centers, mosques, and other Islamic activities in North America.
- f. I ordain and direct that the Islamic schedule of distribution of the estate, as dictated by Islam and as is customarily known and established by the Islamic scholars, be used as the only reference for distribution of the residue and remainder of my estate, referred to in Article V. Relatives not mentioned in the Islamic schedule of distribution of the estate must be disregarded. However, I direct and ordain that all cases not specifically mentioned in this schedule shall be referred to such organizations as the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), for distribution of estate, and that the advice of ISNA or any such Islamic religious organizations must be followed to the letter.

ARTICLE VII:

