

Without question, I recommend that Dane County residents consider filing a will for safekeeping with the Dane County Probate Court. The one-time fee is \$10/will. Water and fire protection offered by the courthouse is superior to what can be provided in a home setting. Moreover, when the time comes to open a probate, the will is already at the courthouse. Add the fact that a will is less likely to be lost when filed for safekeeping; it seems to be an obvious storage option.

The process to file your will for safekeeping with the Dane County Probate Court is as follows:

- Your **ORIGINAL WILL** is delivered to and filed with the court. Making a copy of your will for your records is an excellent idea; stamp it COPY and note where the original is filed;
- Put the original will in a #10 business envelope with your name, address, and DOB printed very clearly on the front. Seal the envelope;
- Create a self-addressed, stamped envelope to yourself. This allows the court to mail you the receipt for placing your will for safekeeping. Keep the receipt with your copy of the will and other estate planning documents;
- The Dane County Probate Court is located at 215 South Hamilton St., #1005 (to your left after you pass through security), Madison, 53703. The fee is \$10 (check payable to the Clerk of Courts). The phone number is 608-266-4331.
- Due to lack of space, the Dane County Probate Court requests that old wills be removed from safekeeping before filing a new document. Under courthouse rules, only you (the will declarant), are allowed to remove an old will filed for safekeeping.

If you reside in one of the counties outside Dane County, please see the next page for contact information for the probate court in your county. Contact your county to find information on filing a will for safekeeping.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Julie Kayartz
608-742-9636 | Julie.Kayartz@wicourts.gov | www.co.columbia.wi.us
P. O. Box 587
Portage, WI 53901

DODGE COUNTY

Lynn Steger
920-386-3550 | Lynn.Steger@wicourts.gov | www.co.dodge.wi.gov
210 W. Center
Juneau, WI 53039-1091

GRANT COUNTY

Jody Bartels
608-723-2697 | Jody.Bartels@wicourts.gov | www.co.grant.wi.gov
130 W. Maple Street
Lancaster, WI 53813

GREEN COUNTY

Gloria Baertschi
608-328-9420 | Gloria.Baertschi@wicourts.gov | www.co.green.wi.gov
2841 6th Street
Monroe, WI 53566

IOWA COUNTY

Kanndie S. Basting
608-935-0347 | Kanndie.Basting@wicourts.gov | www.iowacounty.org
222 N. Iowa Street, Rm 206
Dodgeville, WI 53533

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Robert Rondini
920-674-7245 | Robert.Rondini@wicourts.gov | www.jeffersoncounty.wi.gov
211 S. Center Street, Rm 115
Jefferson, WI 53549

JUNEAU COUNTY

Terry Reynolds
608-847-9346 | Terry.Reynolds@wicourts.gov | www.juneaucounty.wi.gov
200 Oak Street, Rm 2300
Mauston, WI 53948

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

Teresa Siengenthaler
608-776-4811 | Teresa.Siegenthaler@wicourts.gov | www.co.lafayette.wi.gov
626 Main Street, P.O. Box 40
Darlington, WI 53530

RICHLAND COUNTY

Jenifer Laue*
608-647-2626 | Jenifer.Laue@wicourts.gov | www.co.richland.wi.us
P. O. Box 427
Richland Center, WI 53581

ROCK COUNTY

Jodi Timmerman
608-757-2626 | Jodi.Timmerman@wicourts.gov | www.co.rock.wi.us
51 South Main Street
Janesville, WI 53545

SAUK COUNTY

James Daniels
608-355-3226 | James.Daniels@wicourts.gov | www.co.sauk.wi.us
515 Oak Street
Baraboo, WI 53913

For all Wisconsin Counties see:

<http://www.wripa.org/directory-of-wisconsin-probate-offices.html>