

Mourning Ventures of Maine

Legacy & Meaning Terminology

A few things to consider about your life and your future.

Legacies aren't only about money or possessions — they're also about the values you live, the stories you share, and the love you leave behind.

These terms highlight ways to carry meaning forward, honor life, and create a lasting gift for others.

Ethical Will / Legacy Letter

- A non-legal document that shares your values, life lessons, or hopes with loved ones

Organ & Tissue Donation

- Donating organs (like heart, lungs, kidneys) or tissues (like skin, corneas) to help others after death

Anatomical Donation

- Donation of the whole body for medical education or research

Obituary

- A written notice of someone's life and death, often published in newspapers or online

Eulogy

- A spoken tribute at a funeral or memorial service that honors and remembers the deceased

Legacy Projects

- Personal ways of leaving meaning, such as letters, recordings, photo albums, or creative works



“Our greatest legacy is the wisdom and love we pass along in words and deeds.”

Charitable Bequest

- A gift left to a nonprofit or cause in a will or trust

Advance Memorial Planning

- Writing down your wishes for services, music, or personal touches to guide loved ones later

Body Disposition Preferences

- Stating your preferences (burial, cremation, or other methods) to help guide family decisions

 “Did you know that ONE organ donor can save up to eight lives and ONE tissue donor can save and heal up to 75 lives? The act of donating an organ embodies kindness and generosity, capable of bringing about significant positive changes in the lives of those in need.” Donor Alliance



Note:

These definitions are for general education. For legal or medical guidance, consult the appropriate professional provider.

