

Planned Giving

A will is probably not something you like to discuss, yet it is probably the one most important document you will ever have. Most people don't think too much about their estates especially people of modest means. But most of us are quite concerned about our property, and that's exactly what an estate is. Everyone who owns anything has an estate. This includes your home, car, savings accounts, stock, bonds, life insurance policies and personal belongings. Your will and other plans can include provisions to minimize the expenses of settling your estate and, perhaps, save taxes. As a result, you conserve more property for those you choose to receive it.

If you do not have a will you should have one drafted as soon as possible. Otherwise, all of your assets may be tied up in probate for years after you are gone leaving your survivors with nothing. If you move to another state, change your marital status, add a family member, or if your interests change be sure to change your will accordingly.

Bequests are a very popular method of giving because most people are able to make far larger charitable gifts through their will or revocable living trust, rather than outright gifts during their lifetime. Typically, charitable bequests come from accumulated assets rather than from current spendable income. Bequests are also popular since the gift is revocable during the grantor's lifetime, thus providing protection against unforeseen events.

A simple will, leaving everything to loved ones and/or charity is generally used for donors with estates of less than \$600,000 in total value.

A Specific Amount or Percent

One popular kind of bequest is an outright bequest. The will designates a specific dollar amount or percentage of your estate to be transferred to WRHS as a gift for general use or for a specific purpose.

A Gift of Residual

Many bequests are made from the assets that remain after first providing for family and friends. Creating a residual gift from your estate can be a convenient way to make a gift while first assuring the economic well-being of your loved ones.

Q-Tip Trust

Also known as the qualified terminable interest trust, the Q-Tip trust is used when you wish to make a gift to WRHS but also provide for your spouse. The trust can be set up either in your will or a separate revocable trust. Upon your death, income goes to your spouse for life, and the remainder belongs to WRHS. If the income is not sufficient for your spouse, the principal may be invaded for the spouse's benefit. This arrangement allows property to pass completely free of estate taxes. There is no estate tax on your death since the interest going to your spouse qualifies for the marital deduction. Upon the death of your spouse, the estate receives a charitable deduction.

Gift of a Residence

Another type of bequest arrangement is to leave your home to WRHS in your will. You can leave the use of the property to a loved one for life. At that person's death, the property can then transfer to WRHS.

The information provided is intended as a general guide. Tax Laws are changed frequently and you should contact your financial advisors about the tax consequences of any gift.