

Donating to Charity

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Choosing the right charity to support can be overwhelming! Fortunately our Donating to Charity promotion helps educate readers on the details when deciding on a charity. Topics include choosing the charity, deciding the details, and keeping it updated.

Jan. 3: Last day to reserve your space without a discount.

Publication Date: Friday, Jan. 7

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Giving To A Good Cause

For many people, leaving a legacy involves more than distributing property to family. It also means giving generously to organizations that make a difference.

If you're thinking about leaving a meaningful gift to charity as part of your estate plan, it's important that you come up with a road map to handle all the details properly. Here are some things to consider.

CHOOSING THE CHARITY

This may be the easiest part of the process for some people, but it's important to get the decision right.

Many people will know exactly which charity or charities they want to include in their estate plan. It's typically an organization you have a first-person experience with, either as the recipient of their services or as a volunteer and supporter during your life.

Some non-profits share very similar-sounding names, though, so make sure you know their exact legal name, their official address and their registered charity number.

Knowing these facts will make sure your donation ends up in the place you intended.



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DECIDING THE DETAILS

Donations can come in many different forms, and it's important to get legal advice for your situation.

The good news is that you can decide the timing, amounts and form your donation takes. The bad news is that it can be difficult to choose from all the different options, including varying tax and inheritance implications depending on your exact situation. That's why it is import-

ant to get a qualified and experienced attorney involved to make sure you get all the legal details right.

Your bequest can take different forms, including a flat dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, a piece of real estate or personal property, or a gift that is contingent on certain conditions being met.

You can also decide how your donation should be used. It can be given without restrictions for general expenses, or it can go

into an existing fund that's earmarked for a specific purpose.

Another options is creating a new fund for a philanthropic effort you're passionate about. You can work with the charity to find the best fit for how your bequest can meet your goals and make the biggest impact for the most people.

KEEPING IT UPDATED

Your wishes should be written into your will, of course, using the services of an attor-

ney who is very experienced at estate planning in your state.

It's a good idea to keep your will updated as time goes on, too. Some aspects of your estate plan can change, including the size of your estate, the charity's mission and laws that govern it all, including tax implications. Revisiting your will every few years is a good way to make sure your intentions are carried out in the best way to leave the legacy you want.

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