Legacy Giving

Legacy giving, also known as planned giving or bequests, allows individuals in the UK to support charities by leaving part of their estate through their will. This form of philanthropy provides lasting support to organisations and can offer significant tax advantages. The guide explains the process, types of bequests, and benefits for donors and charities.

Benefits of Legacy Giving

1. **Enduring Impact**: Support charitable causes and projects that are important to you, helping to create a lasting legacy.
2. **Tax Efficiency**: Gifts to registered charities are exempt from Inheritance Tax. By including a charitable gift in your will, you can reduce the tax burden on your estate.
3. **Personal Fulfillment**: Knowing that your contribution will continue to benefit others can provide immense personal satisfaction and peace of mind.
4. **Supporting Future Generations**: Your gift can fund scholarships, medical research, community projects, and other initiatives that improve lives for future generations.

If you leave at least 10% of your estate to a charitable cause, your inheritance tax rate drops from 40% to 36%

How to Include a Legacy Gift in Your Will

Consult a Professional: To ensure your wishes are clearly articulated and legally binding, don’t risk writing your own Will.

Choose Your Charity: Decide which charitable organisation(s) (or registered club) you want to support. Make sure the organisation is registered (full details here).

Specify the Gift: Outline the type of gift you wish to leave. This could be a fixed amount, a share of your estate, or specific assets like property or stocks.

Inform the Charity: Let the charity know about your intended gift. It helps them to be able to plan for the future.

Types of Legacy Gifts

Pecuniary Legacy: A fixed sum of money.

Residuary Legacy: A percentage of your remaining estate after all other gifts and expenses have been paid.

Specific Legacy: A particular item or asset, such as property, shares, or valuable possessions.

Reversionary Legacy: A gift that only comes into effect after the death of another beneficiary.

FAQs

Q: Can I change my mind about a legacy gift?

A: Yes, you can alter your will at any time to reflect changes in your circumstances or wishes.

Q: Will my family be taken care of first?

A: Your loved ones should always come first. Legacy gifts are typically structured to ensure your family's needs are met before charitable distributions are made.

Q: How will the charity use my gift?

A: Charities often have specific programs or endowments for legacy gifts. You can discuss your wishes with the charity to ensure they know how you prefer your gift to be used.

Contact Us

For more guidance on legacy giving and to find out how you can support your chosen causes, please contact us:

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