

CHARITABLE BEQUEST

The Lowe Syndrome Association urges you to consider supporting the advancement of its mission by making a planned gift through a charitable bequest or an alternative form of planned donation. The flexibility of charitable bequests and other planned donations provide many benefits. Donors can retain the bequest property during their lifetimes, with the option to revoke or modify the bequest in the event of changes in life circumstances or personal goals, and the donations can be of any amount and may take several forms. In all events you should consult with and be guided by your personal attorney or other planning professionals to assist you in selecting and implementing the alternatives which best suit your circumstances. Testamentary and other planned donations will be of enormous benefit to Lowe Syndrome Association in continuing the expansion of its programs, funding of its research initiatives, and in addressing the needs of the Lowe Syndrome family.

HOW TO MAKE A CHARITABLE BEQUEST:

You can direct any donation to the general funding of the Lowe Syndrome Association's programs, or you might direct its application to a specific program or activity, such as limiting its use for research purposes only. Once you decide how you want to make a gift in your will or living trust, charitable bequests can be tailored to your circumstances and objectives.

Specific bequests are bequests of a specific dollar amount of cash, or alternatively of certain property, such as real estate or artwork. Specific bequests are paid before all other bequests. However, if you need to sell the bequeathed property before your death, the charitable beneficiary may never receive the bequest at all. Thus, the specific bequest of specified property requires more careful planning to address all potential circumstances. The following is suggested language to include in your will or trust for a specific bequest:

A specific amount or a specific asset of your estate: I give to the Lowe Syndrome Association, P.O. Box 864346, Plano, Texas 75086-4346, [specific dollar amount or specified asset].

Percentage bequests designate a set percentage of an estate to be distributed to a charitable organization. Percentage bequests assure that both your heirs and the Lowe Syndrome Association will receive proportional shares of the estate, and the shares are typically determined after the deduction of the costs of administration of the estate and the distribution of specific devises. In this manner your intent to divide your estate stays in place, regardless of whether your estate increases or decreases in value. The following is suggested language to include in your will or trust for a percentage bequest:

A bequest of a percentage of your estate: I give to the Lowe Syndrome Association, P.O. Box 864346, Plano, Texas 75086-4346, "X" percent of my estate, as calculated after first payment of all expenses of administration and the distribution of all specific devises.

Residual or remainder bequests are bequests of any assets remaining after all other specific bequests, death taxes and administrative expenses have been satisfied. This arrangement ensures that all your particular bequests will be satisfied first. The Lowe Syndrome Association, as your charitable beneficiary, would receive what is left of your estate. The following is suggested language to include in your will or trust for a remainder bequest:

A bequest of the remainder of your estate after other bequests are made: I give to the Lowe Syndrome Association, P.O. Box 864346, Plano, Texas 75086-4346, all of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate.

Contingent bequests become effective when your primary beneficiary predeceases you, or disclaims the bequeathed property. In this manner you are assured that your property will not go to unintended beneficiaries. The following is suggested language to include in your will or trust for a contingent bequest:

A conditional gift if a specific beneficiary pre-deceases you: If [other named beneficiary] does not survive me, I give to the Lowe Syndrome Association, P.O. Box 864346, Plano, Texas 75086-4346, my [specific asset bequeathed] or all [or a percentage] of my estate residuary.

OTHER PLANNED GIFTING OPPORTUNITIES:

Your estate attorney or other planning professionals can discuss with you other alternatives for planning and implementing a planned donation to the Lowe Syndrome Association. Please ask your advisors to review with you the following alternatives:

- *Charitable Remainder Trusts*
- *Charitable Lead Trusts*
- *Charitable Gift Annuities*
- *Real Estate Gifts*
- *Naming Lowe Syndrome Association as a beneficiary of life insurance policies or retirement plans*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Do I need a will to make a testamentary gift to the Lowe Syndrome Association?

Yes. If you do not have a will then the intestacy laws of your state invariably will direct who shall receive your assets upon your death. These rules are inflexible, and will not permit you to direct that any gift or donation go to the Lowe Syndrome Association, or to anyone else for that matter other than as your state's statutes require.

Should I use an attorney to make a will?

Estate matters may seem simple, but the laws in practical application can be very complex. We strongly recommend you seek the advice of an attorney or other planning professional to guide you in your estate planning and in planning and implementing a planned donation to the Lowe Syndrome Association.

What if I change my mind?

Your estate attorney and planning professionals will confirm that you can change your mind at any time and may make whatever adjustments you deem appropriate to your planning documents.

Should I tell the Lowe Syndrome Association about a planned bequest?

While your personal planning actions are entirely subject to your own discretion, the Lowe Syndrome Association would be interested in knowing of any planned gifts. Knowledge of your planned donation will permit the Lowe Syndrome Association to include its anticipated receipt into its future planning. We can keep all information confidential, but subject to your discretion and direction we would be pleased to recognize your planned gift during your lifetime, both to show our appreciation for your generosity as well as to incentivize others to follow your example.