

Making a Bequest to Benefit

Perhaps the easiest and simplest of planned gifts is to establish a bequest in your will or living trust that benefits American Health Law Association (AHLA). A bequest transfers ownership of specific assets (such as cash, securities, an IRA, a home, or other property) to another individual or charitable organization at one's death. The documents that are used to accomplish the transfer are called a will or a living trust.

There is some additional information available about the benefits of utilizing a charitable bequest and how bequests enable you to keep control of your assets found on the web.

If you have already included AHLA in your estate plans, please let us know by filling out our estate intention form. We would enjoy the opportunity to thank you and make sure your intentions are carried out properly.

All states have laws that specify who receives a person's assets if he or she dies without specifying a recipient. A person who does not have a will or a living trust is effectively allowing the state to determine what will happen with his or her assets upon death. A surprising number of individuals fail to put a will or living trust in place, which can be a significant disappointment and source of pain for their families. If you have not yet made out a will, please consider this.

Bequest Summary:

- AHLA welcomes bequests of any size. There is no minimum or maximum.
- There is no limit to the number of bequests you may make to AHLA, other charities, family and friends.
- You will receive an estate tax deduction for the full amount of your bequest to AHLA.
- You can change your mind on the amount and recipients to receive your bequest at any time until your death.
- You can take advantage of different types of bequests to fit your circumstances.

Bequest Instructions

When including a bequest provision in your will or living trust, always use AHLA's full legal name and address (your attorney may suggest including AHLA's federal taxpayer identification number, as well).

- Our full, legal name is: "American Health Law Association, Inc."
- Our address is Washington, DC.
- Our federal taxpayer identification number is 23-7333380

For a **bequest of a specific dollar amount**, the possible language is: "I give to American Health Law-Association, Inc., located in Washington, DC, the sum of (Amount) to be used for the benefit of the Association."

For a **bequest of specific assets**, the possible language is: "I give American Health Law Association, Inc., located in Washington, DC, my (asset) to be used for the benefit of the Association."

Please note individual financial circumstances will vary. The information in this document does not constitute legal or tax advice. As with all tax and estate planning, please consult your attorney or estate specialist.

A proportional bequest is often the best way to accomplish your goals if you do not want to specify the exact amount or nature of the intended gift, perhaps because the size of the future estate is difficult to estimate. We would receive a percentage of the estate or Trust or, alternatively, a percentage of the balance of the estate or Trust after all other provisions have been met. Possible language is: "I give to American Health Law Association, Inc., located in Washington, DC, (percent) of my estate, or (percent of the remainder) of my estate to be used for the benefit of the Association."

A contingent bequest takes effect only if the primary intention cannot be met (e.g., if the primary beneficiary does not survive the donor). This ensures that property will not be distributed to unintended beneficiaries. Possible language is: "If (name of primary beneficiary) does not survive me, or shall die during the administration of my estate, or as a result of a common disaster, then I give to American Health Law Association, Inc., located in Washington, DC, all of the remainder of my estate, to be used for the benefit of the Association."

Your will or trust should be updated any time your financial or your family circumstances change. As laws vary from state to state, if you move you should have an attorney licensed in and familiar with the new state's laws review your will or trust agreement. It is wise, even if there are not any significant changes in your circumstances, to periodically review these important documents.

If you already have a will, a codicil is a written change or amendment to a will.

Note - this is an example only. Please consult with your attorney.

This is a codicil to my living trust or will dated _____.

I give and bequeath the sum of \$_____

[or] _____% of my estate

[or] the residue of my estate

to American Health Law Association, Inc. In all other respects I confirm my said living trust or will.

Signed: _____

Witnessed By: _____

Dated: _____

Please Note: Gifts of this nature should be carefully considered in relation to your comprehensive financial and estate plans. We strongly recommend that you consult an attorney in the preparation of your will or living trust and to supervise its execution so as to comply with your State's requirements.

Thank you for remembering American Health Law Association.