

## Tell Me About Bequests. . .

A charitable bequest is a distribution of your estate (the sum of your assets) to a charitable organization. Some estates are large, but many times even individuals who aren't particularly wealthy have resources to make bequests to charities at their death. In fact, it has been said that if every American bequeathed \$100 in his or her Last Will and Testament, billions of dollars would be received by charitable causes *every year*. This short article is designed to provide brief definitions of various kinds of bequests. Please understand that careful review of your intentions should be discussed at length with trained professionals.



**General Bequests.** Bequests of this sort can be specific dollar amounts, particular assets, or a fixed percentage of an estate. However, the bequest comes from the general value of the estate.

**Specific Bequests.** If an individual leaves a particular item or particular property *designated for a specific purpose*, the individual is said to have left a specific bequest.

**Residuary Bequests.** If, after all other assets have been distributed and other terms of your will have been satisfied, yet you desire to leave a portion to a particular charity, you may leave the residue portion of your estate to a charity, which would be a residuary bequest.

**Contingency Bequests.** These bequests allow an individual to leave a portion of the estate to a charity if there are no surviving beneficiaries.

Without a will, however, there is no vehicle in place to secure your bequest.