

a spouse or charity free of tax under federal law and the laws of many states.

### **Fulfilling Charitable Wishes**

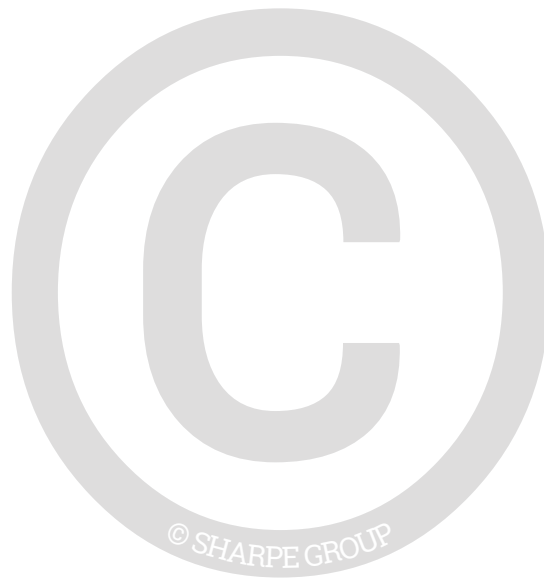
More and more people who make charitable gifts during their lifetime also choose to include charities in their estate plans. You can give what remains after all other heirs have been provided for (the “residue” of the estate), a certain amount or a percentage of your estate.

### **Your Will, Your Way**

As you can see, having an up-to-date will allows you to make wise decisions for the future well-being of those you care about. With thoughtful consideration, your will can “work” for you to bring you peace of mind and the security of knowing your plans are in place.

### **More Information**

Always check with your advisors before making changes in your plans. If we can provide more information, please contact us.



How a Will  
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**P**rotecting your assets involves careful thought and planning, often with the help of others.

Bank accounts should be reviewed; investments watched; heirlooms such as jewelry, works of art and antiques should be properly maintained, stored and insured to retain their value.

And what about income? Though it can vary greatly over the course of your lifetime, you must thoughtfully plan how much to spend, how much to save and how much to give to those you care about.

### **Planning for the Future**

Considering how you want to distribute your assets in the future deserves special attention. One way to achieve your objectives is by having a valid will and letting it “work” for you.

It may surprise you to learn that more than half of Americans don't have a will. In the absence of a will and other appropriate plans, property is distributed under the terms of all-purpose state laws. This one-size-fits-all approach isn't a good alternative for proper planning.

### **Considering Special Needs**

Without a will or other estate plan, a court is not allowed to consider the differing needs of loved ones, like their health and other factors.

You may have a sibling or child who needs special care or a parent who counts on you for financial assistance. Having a will ensures you can make provisions for special circumstances and continue to provide resources to loved ones in the future.

When making your will, you can suggest who is best qualified to care for any minor children if needed. Otherwise, the court will appoint a guardian according to state law. This person may not be the one you would choose.

### **Providing Financial Management**

A properly drafted will or trust can provide for the management of property for a period of time you determine. This can be especially important when children or young adults are named in

a will. In most states, heirs as young as 18 can receive large inheritances with no supervision over how property is managed or spent.

With proper planning, you can specify how your heirs will receive their property or its income.

### **Keeping Things Simple**

When settling an estate, state laws may require complex accountings and other reports to be filed and bonds to be purchased. A simple statement in your will can waive these requirements.

### **Having More To Give**

Changes in federal tax laws and the laws of a number of states have reduced the amount of estate tax most will owe. If that is the case for you, you may find you now have more property available to leave to your loved ones and to charity.

And if federal or state taxes still apply to your estate, there is currently no limit on the amount you can leave to