

# Charitable Bequests

## 8 Ways to Pass on Your Values: Plan Your LEGACY with Your WILL or TRUST

You have worked hard to accumulate assets throughout your life, but without a valid will or trust at your death, those assets will be distributed according to state law. Wouldn't you rather determine that yourself?

Including a bequest in your will or trust to charitable organizations such as **STARC of Louisiana, Inc. (STARC)** may be the best way to leave a legacy and make a meaningful gift in the future. Plus, it allows you to change your mind at any time.

### Why Include a Bequest in Your Will or Trust?

The reasons that donors make charitable bequests are generally as varied as the donors themselves, but perhaps one common denominator is a sincere desire to give back to the community or to a particular charitable organization. Other advantages include:

1. **It's easy.** Making a bequest is as simple as inserting a few sentences into your will, such as, "I give \$10,000 to STARC of La., Inc."
2. **It's revocable.** With a bequest, you are not actually making a gift until your death. Until then, you are free to alter your plans, eliminating the worry that you might make a commitment you could later regret.
3. **It's tax smart.** Your estate is entitled to an unlimited estate tax charitable deduction for bequests to qualified charitable organizations such as STARC.

### 8 Ways to Make a Bequest

The below types of bequests can apply in the case of gifts to individual heirs or charitable organizations.

1. **Specific bequest.** This is a gift of a certain item to an individual beneficiary. "I give my diamond ring to STARC of La. Inc."
2. **General bequest.** This is usually a gift of a stated sum of money. "I give \$15,000 to STARC of La., Inc."



**3. Residuary bequest.** This is a bequest of an estate after all other bequests, debts and taxes have been paid. *"I leave 15 percent of all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate to STARC of La., Inc."*

**4. Contingent bequest.** This is a bequest made on the condition that a certain event must occur before distribution to the beneficiary. *"If my wife Sarah and my son Lucas are predeceased, I bequeath 50% of my estate to STARC of La., Inc., and any remainder of my property to my niece Ana."*

The following types are special considerations that apply only to charitable bequests.

**5. Unrestricted bequest.** A gift like this—without conditions attached—allows the charitable organization to determine the wisest and most pressing need for the funds at the time of receipt. *"I, [name], of [city, state ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to [STARC of La., Inc.] [written amount] for its unrestricted use and purpose."*

**6. Restricted bequest.** This is a gift dedicated for a specific purpose or project. *"I, [name], of [city, state ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to [STARC of La., Inc.] [written amount] for its [project or purpose]."*

**7. Honorary or memorial bequest.** This is a gift given "in honor of" or "in memory of" yourself, in your family's name or on behalf of someone else. *"I, [name], of [city, state ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to [STARC of La., Inc.] [written amount] in honor of [person's name], for [reason for gift]."*

**8. Endowed bequest.** This bequest restricts the principal of your gift, requiring the beneficiary organization to hold the funds permanently and use only a small percentage of its value each year. *"I, [name], of [city, state ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to [STARC of La., Inc.] [written amount] as an endowment with a spending rate of \_\_\_ percent per year."*

You may also include other items in your estate planning such as donation of stock, real estate, or life insurance. **For more information**, call us today or visit with your estate planning attorney.

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