

## Take the Next Step

As you can see, there are different ways to plan a gift that will benefit you as well as us. We'll be happy to give you more information on any option that interests you – at no obligation, of course. Just contact us, and we will walk you through any gift opportunity in more detail and prepare sample illustrations so that you and your advisors can see how the gift would work for you.



### The Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation

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This publication is intended to provide general gift planning information. Our organization is not qualified to provide specific legal, tax or investment advice, and this publication should not be looked to or relied upon as a source for such advice. Consult with your own legal and financial advisors before making any gift.

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# A Plan For Assets

## Wills



## Put Your Will To Work –

## For You



# What Is A Will?

*A will is a legal document that directs specific events occur upon your death. You probably think of a will in terms of the disposition of your assets. That's a significant issue that a will addresses. But a will does so much more.*

## Why Do You Need One?

**Here are just some of the things that you can do with a will:**

- Your will makes it clear what assets go where. For example, if you have family heirlooms or other items that you want passed on to certain individuals, such as your children, your will can make sure that happens. You can get that specific!
- If you have minor children, you can name a guardian for them
- If you have a child with special needs, you can create a mechanism to ensure lifetime support
- If you are in a second marriage, and have children from your first, you can ensure that those children receive the assets you choose
- You can name the executor (sometimes called the personal representative) who will be responsible for administering your estate
- You can reap financial and tax benefits with trusts that address specific needs. Trusts can also help you control when assets are distributed, especially to minors or young adults. You might not want to leave your 25-year-old son an outright bequest of \$100,000. Instead, you can put the \$100,000 in a trust that won't be distributed to your son until he turns 'a responsible' age, whatever you deem that to be.
- You can support your favorite charitable organizations; in a variety of financially advantageous ways

### Without a Will, What Happens?

Plenty, but it may not be what you had in mind. 'Why not?' Because you haven't made your wishes known. Without a written 'game plan,' the state in which you live will make decisions according to its laws.

### How Do You Set One Up?

It is easy. Contact the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation. We can provide you with helpful information to help you get started on your will.

#### Sample Gift Language

**Option 1:** " I give the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation located at Alma, Michigan."

**Option 2:** " I give all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate to the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation located at Alma, Michigan."

### Lewis Cass Legacy Society

The Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation recognizes those who include the Foundation in their will, trust, designation, or other planned gift with membership in the Lewis Cass Legacy Society. Because gifts given by these donors are left posthumously, the Society provides a way for the Foundation to recognize and thank donors during their lifetimes. Upon becoming a Lewis Cass Legacy Society member, donors receive a handsome lapel pin and are invited to an annual donor recognition dinner in their honor.