

LEGACY

of Love



EST. 1978

For Special Friends of the American Federation of Police & Concerned Citizens

THRIVING PLANS HAVE STRONG ROOTS

Have you ever considered the similarities between tending your garden and creating your long-term financial and estate plans? Both require planning, determination and periodic care.

With these efforts come rewards; in the case of both gardens and planning for the future, the work you put in today could reap benefits not only for you, but for generations to come. Just as the sapling you plant today will provide shade for your children and grandchildren, your will and other plans you create now will provide peace of mind and guidance for others in the future.

Planting the seeds

Imagine you are planting a garden. What would you need to do first? Most people who garden know that the first step before planting is enriching the soil. This process is one that some people skip, but is often the most critical factor in creating a vibrant, thriving garden.

In much the same way, those who are making their will and estate plans should start by considering how they want to distribute their assets and to whom. For example, do you own real estate, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, personal property, retirement assets, etc.? Do you know who you would like to remember through each of these vehicles? Are there any charitable organizations you want to support with a legacy gift? This front-end preparation is invaluable and can help you ensure the success of the plans that are eventually drawn up by your attorney.

Tending the crop

Once a garden is planted and growing, the work of the gardener is not over. Regular maintenance through watering, pruning and weeding is necessary to help the garden adjust to changing climate conditions.

Wills and other plans also need to be checked regularly to make sure they still reflect your current financial and personal situation. Changes in your life such as the addition of grandchildren to your family or the passing of loved ones can often require a review and revision of your plans. Financial changes such as an increase in value of investments or changes to tax law may also prompt you to update your plans.

Such periodic “upkeep” of your long-range plans can help ensure that your ultimate wishes are carried out properly.

Reaping the benefits

Most gardeners will tell you when you choose the right plants for the right locations and take good care of them, the garden you create will produce beautiful results and bring you great personal fulfillment. When you take the time to thoughtfully assemble your plans, the legacy you establish can withstand the test of time.

INSIDE:

- ★ Ten Steps to an Effective Estate Plan
- ★ Simple Ways to Make a Lasting Gift



UNDERSTANDING KEY TERMS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

This list can serve as your glossary as you make or update your long-range plans:

- ★ **Beneficiary**—Person who benefits from a trust, life insurance policy, retirement plan or certain other assets.
- ★ **Estate**—All property you own in any form that will someday pass to loved ones and charitable interests.
- ★ **Executor**—The person you choose to settle your estate. Sometimes referred to as a “personal representative.”
- ★ **Joint ownership**—A way of owning property that allows it to pass to a survivor outside the probate process.
- ★ **Living will**—A document that records your wishes regarding extraordinary means of life support.

- ★ **Power of attorney**—A legal document that empowers others to take economic action on your behalf if you are not able to do so.
- ★ **Trust**—A means to provide for ownership and management of property on a temporary basis.
- ★ **Will**—An “instruction sheet” to guide others in how you wish your property to be distributed when you no longer need it.



Your gift will be used wisely. *GuideStar*, the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations, has awarded AFP&CC its prestigious Platinum Seal of Transparency.



SAMPLE BEQUEST LANGUAGE

To include AFP&CC in your will or trust, the following is suggested wording to take to your attorney:

“After fulfilling other provisions, I give, devise and bequeath ____% of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate (or \$_____ if a specific amount) to the American Federation of Police & Concerned Citizens (tax ID #52-1127259), a charitable corporation presently having offices at 6350 Horizon Drive, Titusville, FL 32780.”



Please visit afpcc.givingplan.net to see additional ways you can make a gift in support of the work we do for the families and survivors of fallen officers.

TEN STEPS TO AN EFFECTIVE ESTATE PLAN

Having a proper will and other estate plans in place can be one of the most satisfying accomplishments of your life. Your wishes should be expressed clearly and concisely, leaving no room for confusion.

Begin here

These steps can help you gain control of the planning process.

1. List the people you wish to remember.
2. Decide how you want your property distributed among them.
3. Appoint a guardian for any minor children.
4. Name an executor (or personal representative) to handle the settlement of your estate.
5. Make an appointment with your attorney.
6. Have a valid, up-to-date will prepared.
7. Consider a living trust to complement your will.
8. Plan for incapacity.
9. Review beneficiary designations for life insurance policies, retirement plans and bank accounts.
10. After providing for loved ones, remember those charitable organizations you care about and want to support, like AFP&CC.

Start today

Procrastination may be the greatest threat to your future security and that of your loved ones. The relatively small amount of time needed to create or update an estate plan seems smaller when you consider the benefits. See your attorney and/or other advisors today.

Through careful planning, you may find you can meet a variety of personal and family needs while making special charitable gifts.

Please let us know if we can help you and your advisors as you consider the charitable dimension of your plans.

A GUIDE FOR ESTATE PLANNING



Your estate plan goes beyond just distributing your property—it can also help you with long-term financial planning and maximizing your resources for the future. A will is often the basis of an estate plan, but don't forget about additional planning tools like trusts, life insurance policies, retirement accounts and other investments that can all help you reach your goals.

Better Estate Planning explores the various ways you can fulfill your wishes for yourself and your loved ones and also include meaningful gifts to charitable organizations through your long-range plans. Return the enclosed reply card for a free copy of this helpful booklet.



SIMPLE WAYS TO MAKE A LASTING GIFT

There are many ways you can support the American Federation of Police and Concerned Citizens and other charitable causes you believe in. Each type of gift has different benefits and can help meet different personal needs and goals, both now and in the future. For instance, you can:

- ★ **Give cash.** Charitable gifts are often made with cash, checks or credit cards. When you itemize tax deductions, such gifts can be deducted in amounts up to 60% of your adjusted gross income (AGI) in a single year. Any additional amount can be used to reduce taxes in as many as five future tax years.
- ★ **Give securities or other property.** Many people are now using stocks, bonds or shares of mutual funds that have increased in value to make charitable gifts. Gifts of such assets are deductible in amounts up to 30% of AGI. As a result, you may be able to make a larger gift than planned—at the same or lower cost to you. Similar advantages are available for gifts of other types of assets, including real estate.
- ★ **Name a charity as a beneficiary in your will or other estate plans.** It is simple to put such a provision in a new will or trust, or add an amendment to existing plans expressing your

charitable wishes. You can leave a fixed dollar amount to charitable organizations, a percentage of your estate or the remainder after others have been taken care of.

- ★ **Give through your retirement plan.** You can make a charitable recipient the beneficiary of all or a portion of what remains in many common retirement plans, such as a 401(k), IRA or 403(b). This type of charitable gift does not require a change to your will—only a simple update to a beneficiary designation form.
- ★ **Give life insurance.** Many people have insurance policies that are no longer needed for their original purpose. Qualified charities like AFP&CC can be named to receive all or a portion of the proceeds of such policies.
- ★ **Give through a charitable remainder trust.** You can increase your retirement income, provide for your spouse or other loved ones and reduce income/capital gains taxes while growing your assets tax-free through this type of gift. After your lifetime, the remainder of the trust will be devoted to charitable purposes.

Please contact us with any questions or for more information about any of these types of gifts.

Dear American Police,

I want to express my appreciation for the scholarship awarded to me. It will help me toward my educational goals. I appreciate all the support offered to my family the last 10 years since my dad died in the line of duty.

*Sincerely,
Tyler*



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF POLICE & CONCERNED CITIZENS

POLICE FAMILY SURVIVORS FUND

A Nationwide Program to Help Families of Officers Killed in the Line of Duty

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