

Attorney Timothy P. Crawford, CPA, CELA*, CAP**
wanted to share this information with you.

**HOW TO LEAVE MONEY TO A CHARITY
AT THE TIME OF YOUR DEATH?**

GREATER MILWAUKEE AREA OFFICES IN BROOKFIELD, GLENDALE, MILWAUKEE, OAK CREEK & RACINE

Your Asset Protection Law Firm
840 Lake Avenue, Suite 200
Racine, WI 53403
(262) 634-6659

E-mail: tpc@execpc.com
Website: www.TpcLaw.com

Question: I want to leave money to a charity at the time of my death. I have a Will or a Living Trust. Do I need to amend my Will or Living Trust to put a provision in the document to leave an amount of money to a charity?

Answer: You could amend your Will or Living Trust to include a provision in the document to leave money to a charity. However, there are more flexible and less expensive ways to do this. Not all of your assets will pass under your Will or Living Trust. You can designate your charity to receive a dollar amount at your death by simply naming them as a beneficiary of one of your financial accounts. This may be your brokerage account, your checking account or savings account. You simply ask your financial institution to provide you with a Beneficiary Designation form. Then at the time of your death, the financial institution will simply write a check to the charity. This is simple, easy, quick and very efficient. You do not have to pay an attorney to change your documents.

The beneficiary designation does not have to be for the entire balance in the account. Your beneficiary designation could state the following: "Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to (insert the name of your favorite charity), and the balance to my children equally."

Question: Will I get a tax benefit by giving money to a charity at the time of my death?

Answer: For most people they will not receive a tax benefit by giving money to a charity at the time of their death. You may pay less in death taxes as a result of your charitable giving at death. However, most people will have no death tax bill at the time of their death.

Question: Is there any way I can get a tax advantage by giving money to a charity at the time of my death?

Answer: Yes. If you have an IRA that you are planning to leave to your children, you could instead think about leaving a portion of that IRA to your favorite charity.

Question: What is the tax advantage?

Answer: If you leave your IRA to your children they will not be able to use all of the money in your IRA. As you know, when money is withdrawn from an IRA, whether by you during your lifetime or by your children after your death, income taxes need to be paid. However, if you leave this money to a charity, then no tax will need to be paid.

Question: What is the advantage?

Answer: The advantage is that you could give your children other assets that they could fully use without needing to pay income taxes while you satisfy your charitable goals and desires by giving the charity a portion of your IRA.

Question: How would I do this?

Answer: Simply complete a Beneficiary Designation form saying the following: "I leave to (charity's name) the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and the balance to my children equally." It can be as simple as this. Now you have all the flexibility in the world. If you want to change the amount, you just complete a new form. If you want to change the name of the charity, you simply complete a new form. You will not have to hire your attorney to change your Will or Living Trust.

I hope this information is helpful and useful to you.

**"Those Who Plan Ahead Win.
Those Who Don't Plan Ahead Lose."**

This article is for informational purpose only and is not intended as legal advice. It is recommended that you call Timothy P. Crawford for a free conference to discuss your situation in more detail. Attorney Crawford can be reached at 1-262-634-6659. Please refer to this article when you call.

*Attorney Timothy P. Crawford is a Nationally Board Certified Elder Law Attorney (CELA). He has been Board Certified by the National Elder Law Foundation which has been approved as the Sole Certifying Organization for Elder Law Attorneys by the American Bar Association.

**Timothy P. Crawford was invited to join the Council of Advanced Practitioners (CAP) of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) in August of 2005. CAP is a small group of premier elder law attorneys, all of whom have been members of NAELA for at least 10 years, are certified as elder law attorneys by the National Elder Law Foundation, and are AV rated by Martindale Hubbell, a service that provides an independent rating of the quality of attorneys, as one of the top attorneys in the nation.

Attorney Timothy P. Crawford has been selected as a Fellow of NAELA. Fellow is the highest honor bestowed by the Academy. Selection as a Fellow signifies that his peers recognize the lawyer as a model for others and as an exceptional lawyer and leader.

Attorney Timothy P. Crawford has a superb rating of 10 out of 10 with A V V O.

A V V O has awarded to Attorney Timothy P. Crawford the A V V O Client's Choice Award.

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**"Helping Families in Wisconsin for Over 40 Years
to Protect Their Assets from Nursing Home Care Costs"**

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