

# Are you looking to leave a bequest to the University of St. Thomas?

An excellent way for you to support the University of St. Thomas's mission is to leave us a bequest in your will, living trust or with a codicil. One significant benefit of making a gift by bequest is that it allows you to continue to use the property you will leave to UST during your life. Another benefit is that you are able to leave a lasting legacy.

We'd like to help make it as easy as possible for you. Here are some suggestions for how to proceed:

1. Make your estate plan at no cost, through our partnership with FreeWill (<https://www.freewill.com/stthom>). It takes about 20 minutes to create a legally valid will. You'll be prompted during the process to enter the details of your bequest.
2. If you'd prefer to work with a lawyer, here is some suggested language that will ensure your gift is carried out as you intended. If there is a specific program or purpose you'd like your bequest to support, we encourage you to speak with our development staff to determine what would be most impactful for the University of St. Thomas.

## Types of Bequests

There are a number of ways you can make a bequest to the University of St. Thomas.

**Specific Bequest.** A specific bequest involves making a gift of a specific asset such as real estate, a car, other property or a gift for a specific dollar amount. For example, you may wish to leave your home or \$10,000 to UST.

**Percentage Bequest.** Another kind of specific bequest involves leaving a specific percentage of your overall estate to charity. For example, you may wish to leave 10% of your estate to UST.



**Residual Bequest.** A residual bequest is made from the balance of an estate after the will or trust has given away each of the specific bequests. A common residual bequest involves leaving a percentage of the residue of the estate to charity. For example, you may wish to leave 30% of the residue of your estate to UST.

**Contingent Bequest.** A contingent bequest is made to charity only if the purpose of the primary bequest cannot be met. For example, you could leave specific property, such as a vacation home, to a relative, but the bequest language could provide that if the relative is not alive at the time of your death, the vacation home will go to UST.

## Bequest Benefits

A bequest is generally a revocable gift, which means it can be changed or modified at any time. You can choose to designate that a bequest be used for a general or specific purpose so you have the peace of mind knowing that your gift will be used as intended. Bequests are exempt from federal estate taxes. If you have a taxable estate, the estate tax charitable deduction may offset or eliminate estate taxes, resulting in a larger inheritance for your heirs.

## Bequest Language

In order to make a bequest, you should speak with your attorney. Your attorney can help you include a bequest to the University of St. Thomas in your estate plan. We have provided some basic bequest language to assist you and your attorney.

### 1. Specific Bequest

If you are considering making an outright bequest to the University of St. Thomas, we recommend the following language:

#### Bequest of a Specific Dollar Amount

I hereby give, devise and bequeath \_\_\_\_\_ and No/100 dollars (\$DOLLARS) to The University of St. Thomas, a nonprofit organization located at 3800 Montrose Blvd, Houston, TX, 77006, Federal Tax ID #74-1277664, for The University of St. Thomas's general use and purpose.



### **Bequest of Specific Personal Property**

I hereby give, devise and bequeath DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY to The University of St. Thomas, a nonprofit organization located at 3800 Montrose Blvd, Houston, TX, 77006, Federal Tax ID #74-1277664, for The University of St. Thomas's general use and purpose.

### **Bequest of Specific Real Estate**

I hereby give, devise and bequeath all of the right, title and interest in and to the real estate located at ADDRESS OR DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY to The University of St. Thomas, a nonprofit organization located at 3800 Montrose Blvd, Houston, TX, 77006, Federal Tax ID #74-1277664, for The University of St. Thomas's general use and purpose.

## **2. Percentage Bequest**

If you are considering making a bequest of a percentage of your estate to the University of St. Thomas, we recommend the following language:

I hereby give, devise and bequeath \_\_\_\_ percent (\_\_\_%) of my total estate, determined as of the date of my death, to The University of St. Thomas, a nonprofit organization located at 3800 Montrose Blvd, Houston, TX, 77006, Federal Tax ID #74-1277664, for The University of St. Thomas's general use and purpose.



### 3. Residual Bequest

I hereby give, devise and bequeath to The University of St. Thomas, a nonprofit organization located at 3800 Montrose Blvd, Houston, TX, 77006, Federal Tax ID # 74-1277664, ALL OR A PERCENTAGE of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate to be used for The University of St. Thomas's general use and purpose.

### 4. Contingent Bequest

If (primary beneficiary) does not survive me, then I hereby give, devise and bequeath to The University of St. Thomas, a nonprofit organization located at 3800 Montrose Blvd, Houston, TX, 77006, Federal Tax ID #74-1277664, DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY to be used for The University of St. Thomas's general use and purpose.

## Restricted Bequests

If you are considering a bequest but would like to ensure that your bequest will be used for a specific purpose, please let us know. We would be happy to work with you and your attorney to help you identify ways to give and meet your charitable objectives. We will also work with you and your attorney to craft language to accomplish your goals.

If you are making a restricted bequest, we recommend that your attorney include the following provision to give the University of St. Thomas flexibility should it no longer be possible for UST to use your gift as you originally intended:

If, in the judgment of the Board of Directors of the University of St. Thomas, it shall become impossible for the University of St. Thomas to use this bequest to accomplish the specific purposes of this bequest, the University of St. Thomas may use the income and principal of this gift for such purpose or purposes as the Board determines is most closely related to the restricted purpose of my bequest.



## Contact Us

Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions about how to make a bequest to the University of St. Thomas or to request any additional information that might be helpful to you and your attorney as you consider making a bequest to us.

If you have included a bequest for the University of St. Thomas in your estate plan, please [contact us](#) to let us know. We would like to thank you and recognize you for your gift.

