

## Willing To Be Responsible

Preparing a will is one of the most important acts of a lifetime. It is a statement of who you are - a reflection of your sense of responsibility and what is important to you. Appropriately called a "Last Will and Testament," it is, in a sense, your testimony - your witness to others of the people and things you value most.

**Failing to make a will might mean both delays** and unnecessary expenses, and your loved ones might suffer in the process. The state has a distribution formula that would not include all of your favorite charities and all of your loved ones.

## How To Prepare A Will

### 1 Consult with legal counsel

Call your attorney. Make an appointment to plan your will. Writing your own will could cost your survivors time and money and might not accomplish what you intend.

### 2 Prepare a list of goals

Prior to the appointment, sit down and write a list of what you own and the approximate value.

(cash, house, car, furniture, family heirlooms, stocks, IRAs and 401(k)s, life insurance, etc.)

Be sure to identify those assets that are tax deferred (*IRAs, 401(k) plans, 403(b) accounts, and U.S. Savings Bonds*). Regardless of the size of your estate, any individual who inherits tax deferred assets will need to pay the income tax due on them. They make a wonderful source for a gift to a tax-exempt organization such as YSS.

There may be cherished family heirlooms you may want to give to special people in your life, or financial bequests that you wish to make to friends, family, or to charity. Write out the goals you would like to accomplish through your will before visiting your legal counsel, remembering that our wills serve as a final testament of those things we have valued most.

Record the names and addresses of the people and organizations whom you wish to benefit through your estate. Estates are easier to distribute with percentages rather than dollar amounts.

### 3 Keep it safe and up-to date

When the document expresses your wishes for the persons and causes you love, sign it and deposit the original in a safe place like with your attorney or bank. Keep a copy at home. Remember that your will should be a living document that addresses your changing family needs and personal desires, so review the document often.

## Bequest Language

### Specific Bequest

I give and bequeath \_\_\_(the sum of money)\_\_\_ to Youth & Shelter Services Foundation, Inc. Ames, Iowa, the same to be used by the said Foundation for such purposes as its governing authority may determine.

### Percentage Bequest

I give and bequeath to Youth & Shelter Services Foundation, Inc. Ames, Iowa, \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate for its general purposes or for the YSS Endowment.

## Restricted Bequest (minimum \$10,000)

I give and bequeath to Youth & Shelter Services Foundation, Inc. Ames, Iowa, the sum of (or property herein described) \_\_\_\_\_, to be used for \_\_\_\_\_ purposes. The name of the fund will be \_\_\_\_\_. At any time, however, in the event the original purpose of the gift no longer exists as determined by the Foundation board, they shall redirect the proceeds of this gift to another purpose as similar as possible as determined by the board.

## Please Let Us Know

Take a moment to let us know if you intend to make a bequest to YSS or if you already have included us in your estate plans. This will give us the opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to you now for your thoughtfulness.

I have included YSS in my will or estate plan.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Please Mail or Fax to:



Margaret Epplin  
YSS Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1628  
Ames, IA 50010  
Fax: 515-233-2440

Or email: [mepplin@yss.ames.ia.us](mailto:mepplin@yss.ames.ia.us)

## Questions?



**MARGARET EPPLIN**  
Planned Giving Officer

YOUTH & SHELTER SERVICES FOUNDATION, INC.

*Please remember YSS in your will, trust, or memorial*

Ames Office Phone: 515-233-3141  
420 Kellogg, PO Box Fax: 515-233-2440  
1628 Ames, IA 50010 meplin@yss.ames.ia.us

## Mission:

**Youth & Shelter Services exists to provide prevention, education, treatment, and residential services to children, youth, and families; to advocate on their behalf; and to help them solve problems, grow, and become self-sufficient, responsible, contributing members of society.**

## Vision:

**A world where society values its youth, and together, they thrive.**

## Gifts Made Outside Your Will

You don't necessarily have to change a will to benefit worthwhile organizations at death. Virtually any financial arrangement that allows you to designate a death beneficiary can be adapted as a wonderful bequest to benefit future generations.

### Life Insurance

You can name YSS as the beneficiary of your life insurance, or a co-beneficiary, or a contingent beneficiary. One could also transfer actual ownership of the policy to YSS, or buy a new policy for our benefit. The cost of the policy and premium payments are tax deductible.

### Retirement Savings

IRAs, pensions, 401(k) plans and other tax deferred retirement savings arrangements provide for death beneficiaries, which can include charitable organizations (a spouse's consent will be necessary if the account owner is married). This type of gift can save both estate taxes as well as income taxes that would have been owed by a person who received the death benefits.

### Financial Accounts

Most financial accounts can be made payable on death to a friend, relative or charitable organization.

### Revocable Living Trusts

Charitable organizations can be named as a beneficiary of a living trust.

# Planning Your Estate

*"Iowa youth may be only 22% of our population, but they are 100% of our future"*

-George Belitsos,  
YSS Founder & CEO



Youth & Shelter Services  
**Foundation, Inc.**

*Helping the next generation soar to a brighter future*  
420 Kellogg Ave. • P.O. Box 1628 • Ames, IA 50010-1628