

# Creating Your Legacy: Wills, Bequests, Living Trusts, Life Insurance Policies, and IRAs

Create a legacy that reflects your **personal values** while achieving your financial and **philanthropic goals**. Death with Dignity has a longstanding record of managing donations diligently and strategically to ensure your gift has a **lasting impact**.

## INCLUDING DEATH WITH DIGNITY IN YOUR WILL

A will directs how your assets will be distributed upon your death. Your will ensures that your legacy reflects what's important to you, including the people, causes, and charities you care about the most. You can give to Death with Dignity in your will in several ways: a percentage of your estate, a specific dollar amount, a defined asset, or a remainder of other bequests.

It can be as simple as including language like this:

*I give, devise, and bequeath to the Death with Dignity National Center, \_\_\_\_\_ percent of my estate or the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (or stocks, bonds, property, or other assets) to be used by Death with Dignity National Center to further its mission.*

## INCLUDING DEATH WITH DIGNITY IN YOUR LIVING TRUST

A living trust is a popular estate planning tool because it can avoid the hassle and expense of probate (unlike a stand-alone will) and offers greater flexibility. Assets are placed into a living trust during your lifetime and a trust document governs how those assets are distributed after your death, either immediately or at a certain time in the future. Trusts typically offer greater flexibility, privacy, and control over your assets and how they are managed and passed onto heirs and charities.

A living trust typically entails some greater planning and cost to set up, but results in a simpler, clearer, and less costly process for your loved ones after your death.

## GIVING FROM A LIFE INSURANCE POLICY

Naming Death with Dignity as a direct or contingent beneficiary of your life insurance policy is an easy way to make a lasting impact all while possibly avoiding probate. Simply contact your agent to designate a percentage or dollar amount of your life insurance to Death with Dignity. Your agent will prepare paperwork for you to sign and return.

## GIVING FROM IRAs

Naming Death with Dignity as a pay-on-death beneficiary of your traditional Individual Retirement Account (or another bank account) is one of the easiest ways to make a charitable gift at death that avoids probate. You may be able to request the form for changing beneficiaries online or simply call your agent to prepare and mail one to you.

Assets within traditional IRAs can be subject to final federal income tax (as “income in respect of the decedent”) as well as estate tax. If donated to a charity by way of beneficiary designation, IRA assets can be a tax-free gift to charity.

Together, we can explore how you can create an estate planning strategy that meets your financial priorities, honors your personal values, and reflects your philanthropic **vision**.

“*I strongly believe that if a person who is dying wants to end their life, they should be able to do so. The government should stay out of this personal decision. I set up a bequest in a living trust with funds going to my family, friends, and favorite charities, including Death with Dignity.*”

—FRANK NUSSBAUM, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

### INFORMATION YOU WILL NEED:

- Organization Name: Death with Dignity National Center
- Address: 520 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue #1220, Portland, Oregon 97204
- Phone: (503) 228-4415
- Website: [www.DeathwithDignity.org](http://www.DeathwithDignity.org)
- Tax ID: 93-1162366

### TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT:

- Amy Lavan, Leadership Giving Manager
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This information is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or a tax advisor.

