

The background features several stylized, line-art illustrations of leaves and branches in shades of green, yellow, and orange. A small, light green butterfly is positioned in the lower-left quadrant. The overall aesthetic is clean and naturalistic.

# On Leaving a Bequest



**Our Daily Bread  
Ministries®**

# Dear Friend,

Thank you for your willingness to explore the possibility of leaving a bequest to Our Daily Bread Ministries.

We appreciate it all the more because you have not only worked hard for many years to accumulate your assets, but have also been a good and faithful steward in ensuring that you are able to leave a spiritual legacy of love and care that will strengthen and encourage others in the Kingdom of God.

For some of us, leaving a bequest expresses the truth that everything we own ultimately belongs to God and we are His stewards, called to use His blessings for the extension of His kingdom. It is also an opportunity to give more than we are able to afford during our lifetime.

Your gift is an eternal investment: it will impact lives for years to come, and go a long way in helping us further our shared mission of making the life-changing wisdom of God's Word understandable and accessible to all.

This brochure contains answers to questions that you may have about making your will and leaving a charitable bequest. If you would like to find out more about leaving a bequest for Our Daily Bread Ministries and including the ministry in your will, please contact us at:

Tel: **(03) 9761 7086**

Email: **[australia@odb.org](mailto:australia@odb.org)**

All information will be treated in strict confidence.

Sincerely,



Terry Shearer  
Executive Director  
Our Daily Bread Ministries  
Australia



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS on **BEQUESTS**

## What is a Will?

A Will is a document prepared by you to direct the distribution of your property and assets upon your death. With a valid Will, you choose the individuals and organisations that will inherit your property and you can appoint an Executor who will administer your estate. If you have minor children, you can also nominate a guardian to care for your children.

## Why do I need a Will?

With a Will, you ensure that your property and assets are transferred to the people you love and the causes you support. In addition, the Executor you select will be managing your property, rather than one appointed by the Court. Having a Will can save unnecessary costs and allow your assets to be transferred more quickly and inexpensively to your designated beneficiaries.

## What happens if I do not have a Will?

If a Will is not valid or you do not have a Will, the Court will apply the relevant law governing intestacy. This is a set formula that dictates who inherits your property, eventually defaulting to the State if no other prescribed beneficiaries are found. If you do not have a valid Will, you will have no control over who receives your assets or administers your estate, and the Court's resulting decisions could be significantly different to your intentions.

## What is the role of an Executor?

The Executor is essentially the manager of your estate. He or she is someone you appoint in your Will to ensure that the terms of your Will are carried out. Because he or she will make many decisions about the management and distribution of your estate, you should select someone who is reliable and trustworthy, and preferably someone who is likely to survive you. Your Executor can be one of your beneficiaries. It is important that your Executor understands his or her legal responsibilities and is able to devote the time required to manage your estate.

Given that acting as an Executor is a significant responsibility and requires at least a general understanding of basic accounting, tax and legal matters, you may wish to seek the consent of the person you intend to appoint as your Executor. However, your Executor can obtain professional assistance and does not need to do all the work themselves. The Executor's duties include:

- Locating the Will;
- Arranging the funeral;
- Ascertaining and securing assets;
- Proving the Will in Court;
- Discharging debts;
- Establishing trusts;
- Attending to income tax matters;
- Dealing with the deceased's personal effects and finalising their affairs;
- Distributing and transferring assets according to the terms of the Will.

## Who can I include as a beneficiary?

Anyone! The ways of dividing your estate are almost endless, and you may decide to include family members, friends, organisations—and even your pets. When considering your beneficiaries, you should ensure that your immediate family is provided for, and then consider other individuals and causes you wish to support. Special care should be taken before omitting close family members or making unequal provision for them, as this may give rise to later legal challenges to the Will.

## How do I write a Will?

Although there is no legal requirement to engage a solicitor to write a Will, we strongly encourage you to seek professional legal advice in order to ensure that your instructions are clearly expressed and that your Will complies with the Court's strict legal requirements. In addition, many solicitors will store your Will securely at no additional cost. Your solicitor will also be able to advise you on related matters such as superannuation, powers of attorney or guardianship, etc.

Some of the key legal requirements for a valid Will include the following:

- The Will must be in writing;
- The Will must be dated and signed by you;
- Your signature must be witnessed by two adult witnesses who are not beneficiaries of the Will; and
- The witnesses must sign the Will in your presence and in the presence of one another.

## When should I update my Will?

It is important to regularly review and update your Will should your circumstances change. Such circumstances may include:

- Change in your marital status
- New births, marriages or deaths in your family
- Major illness of a loved one
- Bankruptcy
- Major financial changes, including purchasing property or starting a business
- Retirement

## Where should I keep my Will?

It is advisable to keep your original Will in a safe and secure place, such as with your solicitor or someone you trust. It will be helpful for your Executor to know where he or she can access your original Will when the need arises, and you may choose to give a copy of the Will to your Executor or other trusted individuals.

## Can my Will be challenged?

Your Will can potentially be challenged on a number of grounds, including invalid legal formalities, questionable circumstances at the time of making the Will, or individuals who are wrongfully omitted, such as certain family members. Obtaining professional legal advice can help avoid some of these issues giving rise to a challenge after your death.

## What are the types of charitable bequest?

There are four common types of charitable bequests:

- **A pecuniary bequest (a specific sum):** you can specify the exact dollar amount you wish to bequeath.
- **A percentage bequest:** you can specify a specific percentage based on the total value of your estate. This will accommodate any change in value of your estate as the years progress, but does not affect the priority or importance of your bequest.
- **A residual bequest:** you first allocate specific sums or percentages of your estate to your loved ones, leaving a residue sum out of which you can specify a part to the charity.
- **A specific bequest:** you designate a specific asset such as real estate, shares, jewellery, work of art, etc., to be given to a beneficiary.

## Can I use my Will to create a Christian legacy?

Many people who support a Christian organisation throughout their lifetime want to ensure that a gift of their estate continues this support upon their death. Leaving a bequest can be an opportunity to make one of their largest charitable gifts ever. By including a Christian organisation in your Will, you can provide for your loved ones while also leaving a strong legacy and statement about your beliefs, giving back that which God has entrusted to you.

## How do I make a bequest to Our Daily Bread Ministries?

Our Daily Bread Ministries is the trading name of RBC Ministries Australia Ltd. If you wish to include Our Daily Bread Ministries as a beneficiary, your lawyer will require the following details about us:

Name: **Our Daily Bread Ministries**  
ACN Number: **061 350 141**  
Registered Address: **4 Eastspur Court Kilsyth South VIC 3137**

### You may choose to use this suggested wording:

I GIVE to *Our Daily Bread Ministries* (ACN 061 350 141) of **4 Eastspur Court Kilsyth South VIC 3137** the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ or (\_\_\_\_ percent / the whole / the residue\*) of my estate for its General Purposes and I DECLARE the receipt of the treasurer or other proper officer for the time being of that organisation shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my Trustees.

*\*Delete the clauses that are not applicable*

As your decision may affect your loved ones, you may wish to discuss your decision to leave a bequest to Our Daily Bread Ministries with your family.

## How will bequest funds be applied?

All donations received by Our Daily Bread Ministries including bequests will be applied generally in support of the work in fulfilling its mission.

## Do I need to inform Our Daily Bread Ministries?

If you have included Our Daily Bread Ministries in your Will, it would be good to notify us. Letting us know helps us with our financial planning and gives us an opportunity to answer any of the queries which you may have or to let you know more about the work that you are supporting. All information you share with us will be treated in strict confidence. However, if you prefer to remain anonymous, we honour your wishes and note that there is no legal obligation for you to notify any of your beneficiaries.