

Bequests: Giving to Science of Spirituality through Estate Planning

“Whenever you give, don't give with the hope that you will have a return. Give for the sake of sharing with others.”

~Sant Kirpal Singh Ji Maharaj

Make a Difference in the Future

Would you like the good feeling of knowing that your assets will have a positive effect, not only on your family and heirs, but also on future generations who come in contact with the teachings of the Spiritual Master. You can make a legacy gift to the Science of Spirituality.

Why Make a Bequest

Science of Spirituality's incredible growth over the last few decades has been made possible in part through the inspired and loving donations of our membership. Regular tithing has been central to moving forward the message of spiritual awakening.

Something to Know

Whether you think of yourself as rich or poor, or somewhere in between, your gift can make a difference. Even a small amount can have a big impact over time.

Some people think that they must choose between leaving a gift to their family or to the Science of Spirituality. You can do both, and some charitable gifts may actually save your family money by decreasing their inheritance taxes.

It's easy. A simple directive in your will can bring welcome support and will make a difference in many lives.

Guidelines for Making Bequests to Science of Spirituality

The following guidelines should be observed by initiates who are interested in making property or monetary bequests through a will, a trust, or by transfer of property other than money to the Science of Spirituality (“SOS”).

Provide For Yourself and Your Family First

SOS wants you to first provide for your personal wellbeing and daily needs such as necessities, living accommodations, medical care, insurance, etc. Make sure you have also provided for your future needs such as hospital or nursing care before making large transfers to SOS.

Initiates should consider their responsibility to family, close relatives, and

dependents as well before giving away part or all of their estate to others, even if for charitable or religious purposes. Notwithstanding the best intentions and well-drafted documentation, relatives who feel that they were “cut out” of a will of an initiate may take the position that the initiate was subject to undue influence, or otherwise was motivated to act improperly in doing so. The best way to guard against the organization being caught up in a legal dispute is to discuss your proposed gift to the Science of Spirituality with your family during your lifetime and make sure that your relatives and dependents are provided for in your estate plan.

Retain Your Own Attorney

You must retain your own personal counsel and not depend on legal counsel from SOS, both for the legal work involved and for general advice on both giving and the method of giving. Having your own legal counsel prevents the Science of Spirituality from being construed as having unduly influenced or taken advantage of you in any way.

The Science of Spirituality wants you to make your own decision as to whether, when, and how much to give, after consulting with your own advisors. As stated above, in order to do this, you should retain an attorney to handle estate and trust matters involving wills, trusts, or non-cash transfers. It would also be helpful to have SOS management review or discuss with your attorney as to what he or she is to prepare or has prepared so that we can be satisfied that it will be or has been done properly and consistent with our guidelines. Do this before the transfer, testamentary, or trust documents are signed to better assure that your intentions will be fulfilled and to avoid complications. Improperly set up or documented trusts or transfers may have to be rejected by SOS.

Consult Your Tax Advisor

You should consult with your tax advisor on the impact on your estate and to your surviving family.

Allow Flexibility with Your Donation

Bequests to Science of Spirituality should be given so that SOS can decide how best to use them without many conditions. Conditions include such matters as restrictions on use, restrictions on resale, and allowing or requiring friends or relatives to use the property donated. However, you may earmark a donation for a particular fund that has been created for a particular purpose, such as a building fund.

You can consider giving in different ways including (i) fixed amounts (ii) percentages of certain assets or (iii) a specific asset such as a security. SOS has experienced difficulties at times when real estate has been donated, as it is not easy to sell property, and there are usually costs that SOS must bear when real estate is donated. Accordingly, it is best for the executor of the estate to be instructed to sell

property and donate the proceeds.

There are some easy ideas that can be implemented such as selecting the Science of Spirituality as one of the beneficiaries (after considering your family's needs) to your 401(k), IRA, or life insurance policy. Once again, always consult your estate planning advisors when considering any type of bequest.

Contacts within the Science of Spirituality:

You may contact the following individuals at any time if you have questions and/or would like to review your plans for making a bequest to SOS. If you do finalize a bequest naming SOS, please notify us.

Lisle Illinois Center

Jay Linksman jayl@sos.org

Andy Gabor agabor@sos.org

Jenner & Block, LLC

Carter Klein cklein@jenner.com

The Correct Legal Name

The correct legal name, type of entity, and address for SOS in the United States is as follows:

Science of Spirituality, Inc. (a Delaware not-for-profit religious corporation)

4105 Naperville Road

Lisle, Illinois 60532

IRS Tax ID: 59-1904820