Create a Lasting Impact

There are many ways you can leave a bequest, each requiring specific language to carry out your wishes. These examples include some of the most common types of bequests and basic language to help you get started. Your financial or legal advisor can help you review this language and incorporate it into your will.

General Bequests are legacies designating a specific dollar amount, a particular asset, or a fixed percentage of the general value of your estate to the person or cause of your choice.

General bequest language:
"I give, devise, and bequeath to COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER/HOOD RIVER, the sum of $_______(or a description of the specific asset), for the benefit of COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER/HOOD RIVER, OREGON, and its general purposes."

Residuary Bequests are made when you intend to leave the balance or residue portion of your assets after other terms of the will have been satisfied.

Residuary bequest language:
"All the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, I give to COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER/HOOD RIVER, for its general purposes."

Contingency Bequests allow you to leave a portion of your estate to a particular charity if your named beneficiary does not survive you.

Contingency bequest language:
"I devise and bequeath the residue of the property, real and personal and wherever situated, owned by me at my death, to (name of beneficiary), if (she/he) survives me. If (name of beneficiary) does not survive me, I devise and bequeath my residuary estate to COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER/HOOD RIVER, for its general purposes."

Specific Bequests are made when a particular item or property is bequeathed for a designated purpose. (i.e., instruments bequeathed to the local school district for use in music education; dollar funds to be used in the operation of a school or church.)

Specific bequest language:
"I give, devise, and bequeath to COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER/HOOD RIVER, the sum of $_______ (or a description of a specific asset), for the benefit of COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER/HOOD RIVER to be used for the following purpose: (state the purpose). If at any time in the judgment of the trustees of COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER/HOOD RIVER it is impossible or impracticable to carry out exactly the designated purpose, they shall determine an alternative purpose closest to the designated purpose."

In any charitable bequest, it is important to name the recipient accurately. While we work throughout the Columbia River basin, our registered address is in Hood River, Oregon. Please use: Columbia Riverkeeper, Hood River, Oregon. Federal Tax ID number #91-1583492.