



the TAMARISK SOCIETY

Transforming the Lives of Future Generations | Fall 2013

EVERYONE HAS A STORY. WHAT'S YOURS? Celebrate Your Relationship With OBU



MANY OF OUR MOST ARDENT SUPPORTERS TRACE THEIR INSPIRATION FOR GIVING TO A VERY PERSONAL CONNECTION TO OBU. We hope you'll consider sharing your story and supporting our work in response to the positive impact we've made on you.

If you would like to share your story, please contact us at 405.878.2703 or development@okbu.edu. With your permission, your story may be used to encourage others to support our mission.

If you would like to give back to Oklahoma Baptist University, we are extremely grateful for your generosity. There are many ways to give:

- Your gift can be large or small, outright or deferred.
- You can give cash, securities or other property.
- You can make a gift now or after your lifetime through your will or trust.
- You can fund a particular program or activity that is important to you.
- You can mark a milestone or commemorate a particular date or event involving us that made a noteworthy impact on you.
- Your gift can be made in honor of an inspiring person you have always wanted to honor or thank.

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With all of these choices, it's important to find the gift that best fulfills your goals. Give us a call at 405.878.2703 to learn more about how you can celebrate your relationship with us.



Consider how different your life would have been if not for Oklahoma Baptist University. And then consider making a gift of gratitude so future students can experience all that OBU has to offer.

Free
Guide!



Your Plan for Success

As life changes, so should your will. Make sure your will matches your intentions by keeping it current. For more information, send for our free guide **17 Reasons to Update Your Will** by returning the enclosed survey.



Q&A: WHEN THE STATE MAKES DECISIONS FOR YOU

Give Yourself the Last Word by Creating a Will

WHAT DO ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PRINCESS DIANA, JOHN F. KENNEDY JR., PROFESSIONAL GOLFER PAYNE STEWART AND NFL QUARTERBACK STEVE MCNAIR HAVE IN COMMON? All are famous individuals whose lives ended prematurely without warning. Their tragedies serve as reminders that it is never too early to plan. In fact, there may be no better time than now, while the idea is fresh in your mind, to plan for your future. One of the most important ways to do that is through your will.

To help you get started, we've gathered a few commonly asked questions about wills along with their answers. If your questions aren't listed here, rest assured that we would be glad to help you find the information you need to start this important process.

Q What happens if I die without a will?

A. More than half of all Americans die without a will—the legal term for this is intestate. If you fall in this category, you have no say over who receives your assets at your death. Loved ones, friends and organizations dear to you, including OBU, may receive nothing.

If you die without a will, your assets are distributed according to the state laws where you lived at the time of your death. Laws vary from state to state, but no state provides for a portion of an intestate estate to go to charity.

Following state law, the court will appoint someone to administer your estate

and decide how your assets will be distributed.

Q Who will inherit my assets?

A. Most states look first to the spouse and children of the decedent. Other blood relatives may also inherit in the absence of a spouse or living children.

Q Can I control how things are divided up?

A. Absolutely. When you create a will, you take control of your legacy and the distribution of your assets.

Q Do I really need an attorney to create a will?

A. Yes. Your will is likely the single most important document you'll ever create. You've worked your entire life to build a legacy, so it makes sense that you have opinions about how your assets are distributed. Why leave anything to chance? A legally valid will prepared by a qualified



Why You Need an Estate Planning Attorney

If you're worried about saving time and money, you may think a do-it-yourself will is good enough. Think again—only a qualified estate planning attorney can create a will that is legally valid and accomplishes exactly what you want, such as the key items below.

1 Your will has a big job to do.

Most of us will use our estate plans to accomplish these important tasks:

- Name an executor, the person or financial institution that will oversee the execution of the terms outlined in your will.
- Name a guardian for minor children or other dependents.
- Distribute personal property to friends and family members.
- Set up trusts to save taxes and provide financial management.

2 Your will can define your legacy.

Many of us want to leave a lasting mark on the world. A gift in your will, called a bequest, is a perfect way to do so. You can designate a specific item; a set sum of money; a percentage of your estate; or the remainder of your estate after other bequests, debts and taxes have been paid. In return, your estate receives an estate tax deduction for the amount of the gift.

professional will save your loved ones some major headaches down the road.

Q I don't have an attorney. How do I find one?

A. Seek out recommendations from family, friends and co-workers. You can also seek referrals from a local bar association, estate planning council or the American Bar Association's Internet lawyer referral service: www.abanet.org.



Still Have Questions?

We're here to help. To learn more about creating a will or how you can remember Oklahoma Baptist University with a gift in your will, please contact us at 405.878.2703.

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EASY STEPS TO REMEMBER OBU IN YOUR WILL

REMEMBERING OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY IN YOUR WILL IS THE MOST ENDURING STATEMENT YOU CAN MAKE ABOUT YOUR BELIEF IN OUR MISSION. The support you have offered throughout your lifetime can endure for years to come.

Your gift can be a specific asset, such as a certain amount of cash, securities or property, or a percentage of your estate. Plus, a gift in your will is flexible—you can change your mind at any time—and it can be accomplished in as few as four steps:

- 1 Determine** whether you'd like to make a gift of a specific amount or if you'd like to leave a percentage.
- 2 Decide** if you want to direct your gift to help particular projects or leave your gift unrestricted, allowing it to be used for our most pressing needs.
- 3 Meet** with your attorney to include your gift in your will or revocable living trust.
- 4 Share** your intention with us so we can thank you and ensure that your wishes are followed. We are also happy to respect your wishes regarding anonymity.

We are grateful for your continued support of Oklahoma Baptist University and we would welcome the opportunity to speak with you about ways to give that can help you meet your financial and philanthropic goals. Contact us today to start a confidential conversation at no obligation.

WHAT'S NEXT?



RETURN the enclosed 30-second survey to request our FREE guide **17 Reasons to Update Your Will.**



CONTACT us if you have any questions about tax-smart ways to support OBU today or in the future.



STOP BY our website, www.okbu.edu/advancement/gifts-estateplan.html, for helpful estate and gift planning information.



OBU Box 61275 | 500 West University
Shawnee, OK 74804

Will Smallwood
Vice President for University Advancement
405.878.2703 | development@okbu.edu

www.okbu.edu

DON'T MISS THIS TAX-WISE OPPORTUNITY

Are you 70½ or older? Congress reinstated a law that allows you to move up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as OBU without having to pay income taxes on the money. Known as the IRA charitable rollover, this law has been extended to the end of 2013. Contact us today for details.

