

## Wills & Probate



### **Leaving a legacy to ShareGift in your will**

UK-registered charities such as ShareGift are exempt from Inheritance Tax and Capital Gain Tax on shares transferred to them as a result of a bequest, so naming a charity as a beneficiary in your will can be a tax-efficient way of putting the whole value of your shares towards charitable purposes after you die, though you should always take professional advice on this.

ShareGift was set up in 1996 to help solve the problems that can be caused by small shareholdings, but we do welcome donations of any size and frequently receive larger donations. We routinely receive donations of shares via probate, where the value of the holding makes it inefficient to disburse resulting proceeds to named beneficiaries. We are also able to accept donations via legacies as a named beneficiary. This can include donations of shares, cash and other assets.

If the expected value of a bequest exceeds £500, we class that as a large donation, and you are advised to also read our separate note on large donations. Any charity suggestion you make in your will under a Letter of Wishes would be treated as a suggestion for a large donation, and we would follow our procedures set out therein.

**You may wish to leave a legacy to ShareGift for a variety of reasons:**

*If you have small or illiquid shareholdings, or a small cash balance within the estate*

ShareGift can accept donations of any size regardless of value. Providing shares are transferrable we are happy to accept and hold them regardless of whether they have any readily realisable value. These shares may otherwise cause problems for the estate, and beneficiaries may incur costs in processing such donations which outweigh the value.

*If you have a large or complicated share portfolio*

ShareGift specialises in accepting donations of shares, and routinely accepts complicated investment instruments registered in the UK and overseas. ShareGift works closely with all of the major share registrars in the UK as well as many of the major nominees and stockbrokers. ShareGift also benefits from free stockbroking and custodial services, thanks to the generous support of our partners.

*If you wish a number of charities to benefit from the same legacy*

If you were considering splitting a large bequest between a number of different charities, the amount of work and the costs involved for you and the charities may be off-putting. ShareGift can accept and act upon a number of charity suggestions under a Letter of Wishes.

*If you wish to remain anonymous to charities benefitting from your gift of shares to ShareGift*

ShareGift does not fundraise and will only contact you or subsequently your executors in respect of the donation you wish to make. We do not send unsolicited mailings, nor do we pass on details to beneficiary charities or any other third party.

*If you wish to support ShareGift's work*

By naming ShareGift as a beneficiary you can help support our work, which not only releases value from small shareholdings, but also supports thousands of charities in the UK, and provides pro bono support to the charity sector in the UK in order to assist in the wider area of share giving.

**You can donate a legacy to ShareGift as follows:**

*By naming ShareGift in your will...*

This makes clear your intentions and will help your executors and solicitors to act on your instructions after you die. It is helpful to make us aware of your intentions too, by providing us with a redacted copy of your will and a copy of any accompanying Letter of Wishes. Please note that your will is a confidential document and as such will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and discretion by ShareGift. If no Letter of Wishes is left we may choose to apply a proportion of the value of any estate to our ongoing costs.

*...with an attached Letter of Wishes.*

The attached Letter of Wishes will not be legally binding, however it is the best way to make your wishes clear regarding the charities that you wish to suggest to us for grants arising from the disposal of your shares, after these have been transferred to us. You can also update your Letter of Wishes periodically. Any suggestions in your Letter of Wishes will be treated in line with our large donor procedures (providing the value exceeds £500).

## **How ShareGift handles donations of shares via Probate:**

- Our policy is to sell donated shares as soon as we can. We do not take an investment view.
- ShareGift is cause-neutral, meaning that we do not make a judgment on the relative merits of different charities or causes. Instead, we give to the charities and causes that a) donors and supporters suggest to us and b) we identify from time to time through our own research. We do however carry out due diligence on all the charities we support. If there is some reason why we cannot give to a charity you have suggested, we will let you know before we transfer the shares.
- We make donations in round figures, based on a number of factors, including the value we realise for shares and the overall size of the distribution contemplated. We do not sell shares and pass on the exact proceeds to beneficiary charities, nor do we take any kind of commission from the value of the shares. As a significant proportion of other donations that we receive come to us without a charity suggestion, we are normally in a position to round up the amount we donate to charities, but we cannot guarantee this.
- We make regular distributions to beneficiary charities on an ongoing basis. We will normally include the charity suggestions from large donations in our next distribution following the sale of the shares, but we cannot guarantee this.
- All of the donations we make to beneficiary charities come from ShareGift. We never pass on the names of our donors to beneficiary charities or to any third party.
- We cannot enter into correspondence about the exact donations we will make or the timing of such donations in advance.
- If you wish to let a charity know that you have donated shares to ShareGift and suggested them for a future gift from us, you are of course welcome to do so.
- If your executors would like to see a copy of a charity's letter of acknowledgment / receipt of funds from ShareGift following a suggestion, they should let us know.
- We are delighted to help but can only operate as described. Please be certain that giving to ShareGift and the way we handle donations is appropriate for your purposes. Alternatively, you can contact the charity or charities that you are interested in directly for details of their own

share donation procedures. We generally cannot accept share donations from other charities.

### **ShareGift's costs**

ShareGift makes no charges to donors or charities. ShareGift meets its running costs partly from existing assets, general donations and from an endowment. ShareGift is run by a small team, and we keep our costs to a minimum so that we can pass on as much of our income as possible to charitable causes. We benefit from generous assistance with donated services, including free broking and custodial services. However, donations to help us continue to provide our assistance for free are always gratefully received.

### **Contact us**

If you have any further questions about any aspect of donating your shares, please contact us.

[help@sharegift.org](mailto:help@sharegift.org)

020 7930 3737