

Gift and Estate Planning: Frequently Asked Questions

To learn more or discuss your gift and estate planning, please contact Jane Durno, Director, Gift Planning at jdurno@cafdn.org.

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What is a future gift and how can I create one?

A future gift is one that you plan to make at a future date, typically through an asset such as a Will, a gift of securities, a life insurance policy or a RRSP/RRIF. Depending on the gift type, future gifts can be realized either during or after your lifetime.

This approach is an easy way to make a big difference for the children and youth we serve without impacting your finances today. In fact, many people find that a future gift allows them to make a bigger donation than they ever thought possible, all while maximizing tax benefits.

Some of the most common ways to create a future gift to be made either during or after your lifetime include:

- Creating a **bequest in your Will**, which can be a dollar amount, a specific asset, a percentage of your estate or the residual amount of your estate
- Naming Children's Aid Foundation of Canada as a **beneficiary of an existing or new life insurance policy**
- Naming Children's Aid Foundation of Canada as a beneficiary of your **RRSP, RRIF or TFSA**
- Donating **stocks, mutual funds or traded securities (download our [Gifts of Securities form](#) to get started today!)**

Children's Aid Foundation of Canada strongly recommends that you seek professional advice to from a lawyer or financial advisor to ensure your financial goals are considered, your tax situation is reviewed, your charitable goals are fulfilled and your planned gift is tailored to your family circumstances.

Why should I create a future gift?

Creating a future gift to Children's Aid Foundation of Canada is an incredibly simple yet powerful way to invest in the success of future generations of young people, long after your own lifetime.

It's a way to ensure every child has access to the resources they need to thrive, for many years to come. And it's a way to continue building a better, stronger Canada for everyone.

Most of all, your gift will be a crucial part of your legacy — one that will inspire others to join you and make their own mark on the world, creating a cycle of giving and impact that lasts for generations.

What are the tax and financial benefits of creating a future gift?

Depending on the type of future gift you choose to make, your decision can have significant financial and tax benefits for you and your family.

For example, making a gift in your Will allows you to support a cause close to your heart instead of having estate funds given to the Canada Revenue Agency in taxes, while naming the Foundation as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy will allow you to leave other assets untouched and you may pay lower premiums.

In general, future gifts are an impactful way to lower the amount of taxes you or your estate may owe while making a difference and ensuring your loved ones are well looked after.

We advise you to speak with a financial advisor to learn more about the financial and tax benefits of planning a future gift.

How will a future gift help kids involved with Canada's child welfare system?

By creating a future gift, you will be a guardian for new generations of kids involved with the child welfare system — ensuring no child is left to struggle on their own.

As Canada's leading charity dedicated to improving the lives of young people involved with the child welfare system, we work with over 100 child welfare partners across Canada and a national community of supporters to ensure the kids we serve can access the tools, resources and supports they need to overcome the odds stacked against them.

Your future gift to Children's Aid Foundation of Canada will support programs, services and initiatives such as:

- **Early intervention programs** that aim to strengthen families experiencing vulnerability and prevent children from entering government care
- **Education supports** that empower success in school, such as tutoring, scholarships and bursaries
- **Enrichment programs** that help the young people we serve make new friends, develop new skills and build self-esteem
- **Employment readiness programs, mental health services and housing supports** for youth transitioning out of care
- And so much more!

How can I make a gift in my Will?

Making a gift in your Will is a lot easier than you may think. The most common way to create a gift in your Will is by creating a **bequest**, which can be a dollar amount, a specific asset, a percentage of your estate or the residual amount of your estate.

We recommend speaking with your lawyer or financial advisor to get started, and you can also contact Jane Durno, Director, Gift Planning, at jdurno@cafdn.org to learn more about the different ways you can create a planned gift to Children's Aid Foundation of Canada.

What information do I need to include Children's Aid Foundation of Canada in my Will or name it as the beneficiary on a policy or registered account?

You will need the following information:

Legal Name: Children's Aid Foundation of Canada
Charitable Registration Number: 108076480-RR0001
Address: 25 Spadina Road, Toronto, ON, M5R 2S9

Remember to please let Jane Durno, Director, Gift Planning know when you've done this by completing the [Foundation's Gift Intention Form](#) and returning it to Jane at jdurno@cafdn.org.

Can you provide sample bequest wording?

Absolutely! [Download our sample wording resource](#) specifically for making a gift in your Will to Children's Aid Foundation of Canada.

Is there a minimum amount needed to include a gift in my Will?

No — there is no minimum requirement! Every gift, in any amount, will make a significant difference for the young people we serve.

I'm the executor of an estate that names Children's Aid Foundation of Canada as a beneficiary. Who should I contact?

Please contact Jane Durno, Director, Gift Planning at jdurno@cafdn.org for guidance and support.

I've already arranged a gift in my Will to the Foundation. Do I need to let you know?

Thank you so much for choosing to leave a gift to Children's Aid Foundation of Canada in your Will!

While you are not required to let us know about your gift, doing so will ensure you can enjoy the benefits of being part of our Stand Up for Kids Legacy Society and will give us a chance to appropriately recognize your generosity.

If you would like to let us know about your planned gift, please fill out our [Gift Intention Form](#) and email it to Jane Durno, Director, Gift Planning at jdurno@cafdn.org.

Can I support kids today by donating securities or through my RRIF?

Absolutely! You can do both. We encourage you to consult your financial advisor to determine the most effective financial and tax strategy for you. Your support today will directly impact the kids we serve.

What are the benefits of making a future gift using securities?

Gifts of securities are a simple way to create an immediate or future impact on the children and youth we serve. By donating publicly traded securities, you eliminate the capital gains tax that you'd have to pay if you sold the securities and then donated the proceeds. You'll also receive a charitable tax receipt for your donation.

You can give now, or as part of your estate and Will planning.

Giving is simple. Consult your financial advisor to decide which investments will make the most financial and philanthropic impact, while being most tax efficient for you. Then ask your broker to transfer your securities to the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada by completing the appropriate transfer form. And finally, get in touch and let us know you have made your gift so that we can show our appreciation.

[Download our Gift of Securities form to get started.](#)

What happens if I want to add to, change or stop my legacy gift?

You can alter your Will (or the beneficiary name on your life insurance policy, RRIF or other assets) at any time through your lawyer or by creating a codicil, which is a legal document that allows you to make changes to your Will without creating an entirely new Will.

To learn more about how this process works, please speak with your lawyer or financial advisor or contact Jane Durno, Director, Gift Planning at jdurno@cafdn.org.

Where should I direct my gift?

We strongly encourage you to consider leaving your gift unrestricted, which will ensure it is used to support the highest priority needs of the young people we serve.

With the needs of young people constantly evolving, it can be tough to predict what types of programs and services they may need in the future. Your unrestricted gift will provide much-needed flexible funding that will allow us to direct your dollars in the most impactful way possible.

What is the Stand Up for Kids Legacy Society?

All individuals who choose to name Children's Aid Foundation of Canada in their Will automatically become members of the Stand Up for Kids Legacy Society. As a member, you will be recognized in applicable donor listings (unless otherwise stipulated) and you will receive exclusive invitations to special events as well as regular updates on the Foundation's work and your impact.