
Making a bequest to the Society of Australian Genealogists

Generous donations from family historians, people like you, greatly assist SAG in its work. Following is some information about SAG and about making a bequest. We suggest you discuss any bequest you are considering making with your legal adviser and taxation consultant.

Who we are

SAG was established in 1932 and is Australia's oldest family history society. For over three generations SAG has been helping Australians trace their family history to help understand and appreciate where they came from and who they are.

SAG is incorporated under Australian corporations law as a non-profit company limited by guarantee (ABN 45 029 698 871), and is an endorsed charity entitled to a range of tax concessions. SAG's Collections Fund is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient (DGR) under the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. This means all donations to SAG's Collections Fund are tax deductible.

How you can help

SAG is entirely self-supporting and receives no direct or indirect government funding. We depend on membership fees, donations and income from activities and services to fund our operations. We face ever-increasing costs in providing services to our members. These include buying library materials, providing computer access, running educational programs and maintaining our buildings and equipment. In order to secure the future of family history we depend on help from you, our generous members and supporters.

Your bequest

A bequest is a wonderfully thoughtful and practical way for you to make an enduring gift to support those individuals and organisations that most matter to you. Through a bequest to SAG you can ensure your support for and interest in family history research endures beyond your lifetime.

There are several different ways you can leave a gift to SAG:

- i. The whole of your estate
- ii. A percentage of your estate
- iii. A legacy or specific amount of money
- iv. The residue of your estate
- v. A percentage of the residue of my estate
- vi. Specific property, such as shares or real property

What your bequest will be used for

By making a bequest to SAG you will be helping secure a dynamic and active future for family history research in Australia. Your gift will help the broader community understand your family's history and the role they played. With so much of value being thoughtlessly destroyed today, you can be secure knowing that your research in family history will be preserved and appreciated by coming generations of family historians and by your own family. Your bequest can be used for a range of important family history purposes, such as: library resources; research; building and equipment maintenance and replacement.

Your family history papers and research

If you are not able to leave any assets to SAG, you may wish to consider bequeathing your family history papers. This will ensure that all your hard work and effort in researching your family is properly appreciated, stored and cared for by SAG. It also means that other family historians from around the world will have access to your valuable research in the future.

We incur various costs in cataloguing and indexing your papers, so any donation that helps meet these costs is also most appreciated.

Suggested Form of Wording

Set out below are suggested bequest clauses for some of the more common types of bequests:

Suggested wording for the whole of your Estate

*"I give and bequeath the whole of my Estate of whatsoever nature and wheresoever situate to my Trustees **UPON TRUST** to pay thereout all my just debts, funeral and testamentary expenses and all other duties or taxes whatsoever payable on or by reason of my death **AND TO HOLD** the balance thereof **UPON TRUST** for the **Society of Australian Genealogists ABN 45 029 698 871** for its general purposes [or insert other purposes, for example research or publication]. I direct that the written acknowledgement of the Society of Australian Genealogists shall be accepted by my executors as a full and complete discharge".*

Suggested wording for a percentage of the residue

*"I give and bequeath the rest and residue of my Estate of whatsoever nature and wheresoever situate to my Trustees **UPON TRUST** to sell, call in and convert the same into money with power to postpone such sale, calling in and conversion for such time as they may in their absolute discretion deem fit to pay thereout all my just debts, funeral and testamentary expenses and all other duties or taxes whatsoever payable on or by reason of my death **AND TO HOLD** the balance thereof **UPON TRUST**:*

*(a) as to []% for the **Society of Australian Genealogists ABN 45 029 698 871**,*

(b) as to []% for [insert details of other beneficiaries].

[The percentages bequeathed must total 100%.]

Suggested wording for a legacy

*"I give and bequeath the sum of \$_____ to the **Society of Australian Genealogists ABN 45 029 698 871** for its general purposes. I direct that the written acknowledgement of Society of Australian Genealogists shall be accepted by my executors as a full and complete discharge".*

Suggested wording for the residue of your Estate

*"I give and bequeath the rest and residue of my Estate of whatsoever nature and wheresoever situate to my Trustees **UPON TRUST** to sell, call in and convert the same into money to pay thereout all my just debts, funeral and testamentary expenses and all other duties or taxes whatsoever payable on or by reason of my death **AND TO HOLD** the balance thereof **UPON TRUST** for the **Society of Australian Genealogists ABN 45 029 698 871** for its general purposes. I direct that the written acknowledgement of the Society of Australian Genealogists to be accepted by my executors as a full and complete discharge".*

Suggested wording for a gift of shares

*"I give to the **Society of Australian Genealogists ABN 45 029 698 871** all of the shares which I hold in [insert full company name and ACN] for its general purposes free of all debt and all duties or taxes payable on or in consequence of my death and discharged from all encumbrances. I direct that the written*

acknowledgement of the Society of Australian Genealogists shall be accepted by my executors as a full and complete discharge”.

Suggested wording for a gift of real property

*“I give to the **Society of Australian Genealogists ABN 45 029 698 871** my **[insert full description of property]** for its general purposes free of all debt and all duties and taxes payable on or in consequence of my death and discharged from all encumbrances. I direct that the written acknowledgement of the Society of Australian Genealogists shall be accepted by my executors as a full and complete discharge”.*

Suggested wording for an alternative Bequest is

*“I give and bequeath **[insert details of Bequest, i.e. legacy or gift]** to **[insert name of beneficiary]** **PROVIDED HOWEVER** that should **[insert details of beneficiary]** fail to survive me, then to the **Society of Australian Genealogists ABN 45 029 698 871** for its general purposes. I direct that the written acknowledgement of the Society of Australian Genealogists shall be accepted by my executors as a full and complete discharge”.*

Suggested Form of Wording for a gift of your Family History Research Papers

*“I give all or any of my family history research papers and records, together with related publications and documents in any format of which I die possessed to the **Society of Australian Genealogists ABN 45 029 698 871** [together with the sum of \$XXXX for its general purposes and to assist in the preservation and cataloguing of my family research papers and related publications and documents]”.*

As estate planning is a complex area, we recommend that you seek professional legal and taxation advice to ensure that you are appropriately informed of your options and so that your Will operates in the exact manner that you intend it to.

Further information about the types of bequest

- **General purposes:** your gift to SAG is used for general purposes, depending on our needs at the time.
- **Specific purpose:** you specify the purpose of your gift in your will. You should talk, in strict confidence, to SAG first, to ensure that it will be possible for us to fulfil your purpose, as our needs and circumstances can change over time.
- **Specific bequest:** a specific amount or a specific asset from your estate is gifted to SAG. Note that inflation will erode the amount of monetary bequests (i.e. a legacy) over time.
- **Residual bequest:** this is the remainder of your estate after the other terms of your will are satisfied. This ensures that all debts, duties and taxes consequent upon your death are paid and that your beneficiaries are provided for before the charitable gifts to SAG.
- **Proportional bequest:** a percentage of the residue of your estate is gifted to SAG. This is a flexible option as it does not depend on the value of your estate and again ensures that all debts etc. and legacies are provided for in priority.
- **Contingent bequest:** this ensures, for example, that a loved one can continue to live in your property, or derive income from your assets, during their lifetime. After their passing, your assets are then distributed according to your will.

You can bequeath anything of value to SAG in your will, for example, cash, real estate, shares, artworks, jewellery, furnishings, motor vehicles, life insurance policies that we can use to raise much needed funds. You do not have to change your entire will to include SAG as one of your beneficiaries. You can make a codicil (a supplement) with appropriate wording. You should talk to your legal adviser about doing this.

If you have any concerns or want to discuss a specific bequest to the Society, please let us know via info@sag.org.au or telephone (02) 9247 3953.

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