

How We Chose Our Inheritance Amount

Many, if not most, traditional estate plans pass to children “whatever is left” after paying taxes, expenses, and completing specific bequests. This method gives little thought to how parents want children to use the money, or how well-prepared children are to receive a sizeable inheritance. This worksheet fills that gap.

Complete this form only after you have answered the questions on Why We Choose To Leave Money To Our Children.

1. We believe that our combined estates will be worth about \$ _____ upon our deaths.

2. We would like to leave our children an amount of as much as \$ _____ upon our deaths.

You can express this number as a flat amount or as a percentage of your total estate if you prefer. You can include a “not to exceed” instruction to the amount. You can adjust the amount for inflation or state a set, unchanging amount. If you desire, you can state different amounts or percentages for each child or treat all children the same. Use the space below to describe your intentions.

3. We chose this amount because:

Mark all statements that apply and provide explanations, if appropriate.

The amount should be enough to achieve most or all of the items (listed on our *How We Would Like Our Children To Use Their Inheritance* worksheet) that we’d like to provide for our children.

We think that we will have enough left in our estate at our deaths to provide this amount without affecting our retirement income needs.

We believe that this inheritance amount will not affect our ability to make the charitable bequests we desire.

It is our understanding that we can leave this inheritance to our children without adverse tax consequences.

We will develop (or have already developed) a plan to help educate our children on how to handle an inheritance of this size in accordance with our values.

It is our understanding that we can use trusts (or other entities) to protect our children's inheritance from creditors and predators.

Names _____ and _____

Date _____

***Note:** While this form is designed to help you be purposeful in the distribution of your assets upon your death, it has no legal, binding effect. Your advisors will use it to initiate dialogue with you in the development of a legacy plan customized to meet your specific goals.*