



Support Abuse Survivors After You're Gone

Family Violence Appellate Project's Legacy Society is made up of people who care about ensuring the safety of survivors of domestic abuse and their children. Through their generosity they will ensure that FVAP's mission is achieved by helping survivors obtain effective and free appellate representation that can continue well into the future.

With permission, supporters who leave a bequest to FVAP will be honored as members of FVAP's Legacy Society in an FVAP newsletter and on FVAP's Legacy Society Members' web page with their photo and biography. Members may submit a statement about why they choose to support FVAP to be included with their profile to help inspire others to support survivors of domestic abuse.

How to Get Started

1. Contact an estate planning attorney, and let them know you want to make a bequest to FVAP.

Note: Bequests and the disposition of your assets are generally made either under a revocable living trust or a will after you are deceased. You should consult with your attorney to determine what type of document is right for your situation. If you already have either a revocable trust or will (or both), contact your attorney so that the appropriate document can be revised to include your bequest to FVAP.

2. You will need to consider the type of bequest you would like to leave FVAP in your estate plan. Here are some ways that a bequest to FVAP can be made in your estate plan, for you to discuss with your estate planning attorney.

Specific Dollar Amount Bequest.

"I bequeath the sum of \$_____ to the Family Violence Appellate Project for its general purposes."

A percentage of your over-all estate. You may also leave a percentage of the total assets you own (i.e., your estate) to FVAP. This type of bequest makes certain that FVAP will benefit proportionately from your estate, whether it increases or decreases in value, from the time you execute your estate plan until your date of death.

"I bequeath ___% of my estate to the Family Violence Appellate Project, for its general purposes."

Residuary Bequest. You can also leave your entire estate to FVAP in a residuary bequest, or this type of bequest can be made if you have specific or percentage bequests to other individuals or charities, and want to leave your remaining assets to FVAP.

“All the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, I bequeath to the Family Violence Appellate Project, for its general purposes.”

3. Submit the “[Legacy Society Member’s Information Form](#)” so we can thank you for your support and recognize you as a new member of our Legacy Society. You can do this by emailing your completed form to staff@fvaplaw.org or mail it to:

Family Violence Appellate Project
Development Department
449 15th St., Suite 104
Oakland, CA 94612

FAQs

Is there a certain giving level required to make a bequest?

You do not need a large estate to leave a gift to FVAP in your will. No matter the size of your gift, abuse survivors will benefit from your support.

How will my gift be used?

That’s up to you! You can choose to leave what’s known as a “restricted” gift or an “unrestricted gift.” Unrestricted gifts will go to where FVAP determines the greatest need to be. Unrestricted gifts are FVAP’s preferred form of gift.

If you choose to leave a restricted gift, you designate what the gift is to be used for. If you would like to make a restricted gift, please contact us at staff@fvaplaw.org, so that we can ensure that the restrictions you had in mind can be fulfilled by FVAP.

What if I don’t have a lawyer?

FVAP may be able to refer you to an estate planning lawyer who can help you without charge or for a reduced fee. In addition, Housing & Economic Rights Advocates (HERA) offers estate planning services for a sliding scale fee.

Finally, while individual advice of a lawyer is preferable, there are also self-help estate planning tools you may choose to use. For example, if you have already used Nolo to create your will, Nolo has a form you can complete for a small fee to update your will: <https://store.nolo.com/products/will-codicil-noe3-pr010.html>.