

Questions & Answers About Estate Planning

Q: I do not consider myself wealthy. How can my bequest make a difference?

A: AVI USA has received several bequests and the number is growing each year. The gifts left in Wills or Trusts have ranged from \$500 to hundreds of thousands of dollars. Together, they go a long way toward furthering the work of Auroville. They have helped continue the work of Village Action, Matrimandir and most especially to purchase land as the Mother envisioned. Every single bequest makes a difference in helping Auroville continue its physical expression of human unity.

Q: I don't have a Will. Why do I need one?

A: Everyone needs a Will or Trust because if you die without a valid Will or Trust (a condition called intestate), your entire estate will be apportioned and distributed according to the law in your state of residence. In general, part of your property will be transferred to your spouse if you are married, and the rest to your natural or adopted relatives, although not necessarily in the proportions you might wish. Nothing will be given to causes or charities you are committed to. If you have no living relatives, all of your property will be turned over to the state. Also, the lack of a Will or Trust may cause long and expensive delays in settling your estate. Having a Will or Trust is your opportunity to make sure that your assets will do the most good in years to come.

Q: I had a Will prepared years ago. Would it be difficult to include Auroville now?

A: Your Will should be a living document. It should change to reflect significant events in your life, such as children reaching adulthood, sale of a home, a marriage, moving to a new state or a new commitment to a spiritual, social or charitable cause. If you haven't looked at your Will for five years or more, it may well be out of date. Upon review, you may find that it still substantially meets your wishes, but needs a few small changes. In that case, there is probably no need to completely rewrite it. Your lawyer may be able to simply add an amendment, called a codicil, to carry out your current wishes.

Q: I want to provide for my family members, but I also want to help Auroville and other charities that are important to me. How can I do all of this?

A: Take care of your family first by making specific bequests of money and property. Then make what are called "residuary gifts". Your residuary estate is the portion that is left over after specific gifts are made. You can provide that Auroville receive a percentage of your residuary estate or you can make a specific dollar amount gift or leave specific items, such as real estate or stocks to Auroville. A gift of even a small portion of your residuary estate is important to us.

Q: How will Auroville use my gift?

A: In whatever way your Will or Trust legally directs. If you would like to have your gift used for a particular activity or project in which you have a special interest, you can support that project specifically. If you do not direct that your gift be used for a specific purpose, Auroville will apply your gift to its highest community priority at the time we receive your bequest.

Q: Can I benefit Auroville by naming it as a beneficiary of my life insurance?

A: Yes, as the policy owner (the insured) you can name AVI USA or the FWE Auroville Endowment Fund as a beneficiary, transfer an existing policy to AVI USA or contribute the funds needed to purchase a new policy.

For more information, please return the enclosed reply card to AVI USA – Planned Giving
Phone: 866-2-HELP-AV or (831) 425-5620, Email: info@aviusa.org, Web: www.aviusa.org

All correspondence will be held in strictest confidence.