



## A SCOOP FOR YOU!

### How to Begin Your Planning

Your will represents the distribution of your life's work, and for the most of us that makes the allocations we make through our wills by far the largest transfer of resources we will ever make. With that in mind, here are some general principles to guide your decision making:

1. Add up your assets---cash, securities, bonds, real estate (residence, vacation home, investment property, etc.), mutual funds, personal property (art, jewelry, special collections, etc.), business interests, retirement assets and insurance policies.
2. Know who you want your beneficiaries to be---family, friends and charitable organizations.
3. Determine what you want each beneficiary to inherit.
4. Decide if you have special assets you want to give, such as art or jewelry.
5. Be aware of the beneficiary status of assets outside your will, such as insurance policies and retirement funds. Decide how you would like these assets to be used, and be sure the beneficiary status is accurate and up to date.
6. Understand that estate taxes only apply to estates with assets of \$5 million or more (\$10 million or more for couple) in 2012. Congressional action may change those thresholds in future years.
7. Seek professional advice.

If Girl Scouts of Nassau County will be a beneficiary, please notify us of your intentions (even if you wish to remain anonymous to the public). This notification allows us to understand how you want your gift to be used, acknowledge your gift and keep you involved in the activities of the Honor Circle Society.

Once your will has been established, review it annually or after a life-changing event, such as the birth of a child, retirement or the death of a partner.

Though the process is not always easy, the relief you will feel in knowing those you value most are well provided for will be worth the effort.