# What to Discuss When Your Client Wants to Make Charitable Gifts

Presented by: Christian S. Kelso

#### **Overview**

- What is planned giving and what are its benefits?
- What tax benefits are available to donors?
- Who to give to?
- What are the best assets to give to charity?
- What are the best methods for making charitable gifts?
- What else should a person with charitable intent be thinking about?



#### **Planned Giving Defined**

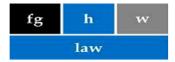
There's charitable giving

Then there's planned giving



#### Why Planned Giving?

- Benefits to donor
  - Tax
  - Legacy
  - □ Targeted (maybe)
- Benefits to recipient
  - Support of mission
  - Long-term benefit
  - Sustained participation
  - Increased visibility



#### **What Tax Benefits?**

- Income tax
- Gift tax
- Estate tax



## Planned giving is: A coordinated effort made of unique and granular choices.



#### Who to Give to?

- 501(c)(3) organization
  - □ 50% charity
  - Private foundation
  - Donor advised fund
- Trusts
  - Nonexempt charitable trusts
  - Split-interest trusts



#### What Can I give?



- Cash
  - Generally, not a big part of planned giving
  - Minimal leverage
  - Bunching may help



#### What Can I give?



- Appreciated Property
  - □ Stock, real estate, etc.
  - □ Eliminate tax on capital gain
- Contributing an asset directly to charity can eliminate capital gains tax.



#### What Can I give?



- Retirement plan assets
  - □ Lifetime gifts
    - "Qualified Charitable Distributions"
    - Expanded tax savings because distributions not included in income
    - Must be 70  $\frac{1}{2}$  (SECURE Act didn't raise to 72)
    - BUT: cannot make contribution to retirement account and QCD in same year
    - Max gift of \$100k
  - As part of estate plan
    - Income and estate tax savings potential
    - Savings on administrative fees



#### What Can I Give?



- Life Insurance
  - □ Do you need the insurance?
  - Small company policies
  - □ Old ILITs

#### What not to give



- Property the charity doesn't have time to deal with
  - Rental property
  - Closely-held business interests
  - Property with homestead or other rights blocking liquidation/enjoyment
  - Undivided interests
- "Bad" assets cannot be put towards charitable purposes
  - Involve administrative work by charity
  - Restricted



### Planned giving means doing what's right for you AND the charity!





- How to give?
  - □ During life or at death?
  - □ Charitable trust?
  - □ Direct from retirement account?
  - Corporate matching
  - Major disaster beneficiary





- Restrictions?
  - Be careful
  - Restrictions = complications
  - Generally want unrestricted gifts



- What assets are most "efficient"
  - Appreciated assets
  - Retirement accounts
  - Life insurance



- Timing
  - Cashflow considerations
  - Bunching



- Special needs of the Charity
  - □ Special opportunity to make a difference
  - Corporate sponsorship
  - Noneconomic donations

#### Takeaways:

- 1) Cash gifts are not planned giving (usually)
- 2) Avoid restricted gifts
- 3) Don't give "bad" assets

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### Questions?

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