When you are planning for your death and incapacity, one of the first questions is who would be your fiduciary? Your fiduciary is one of the key decision-makers in any estate plan, and the potential roles include your successor trustee, personal representative (i.e. your executor), your attorney-in-fact (your power of attorney) and your designation of health care surrogate.

What is a fiduciary?
A fiduciary is a trusted person or institution that can act for you upon your death or incapacity. A fiduciary is held to the highest standard of trust in the legal world. For estate planning purposes, your fiduciary roles can be separated out in three different ways. First, you need a fiduciary to handle your affairs upon your death, who would be a successor trustee and personal representative. Second, you need an attorney-in-fact to handle your financial and legal affairs if you become incapacitated. Finally, you will need a health care decision maker if you are unable to handle your medical decisions. Often, the same person can serve in all of these roles.

Who should act as my fiduciary?
First, you must trust the person you name in any role. There is no better way to create problems in your estate plan than to name an untrustworthy person. After that, the person you name should be able to act if needed. Someone who lives out of state, for instance, may not be a great choice if you have a trusted local person. Finally, you must trust this person’s ability to run your affairs. The person you name should have the financial and emotional ability to handle difficult situations in being your advocate.

What if I do not have any children or family?
While most people look to family fiduciaries, this is not possible for everyone for a variety of reasons. If you do not have a trusted family member who is able and willing to assist you, some estate planning attorneys serve as fiduciaries. If your estate planning attorney will not do this for you, he or she may know professional guardians and banks who could help you in the event of your death or incapacity. As an elder law attorney, our law firm serves in this role for some clients.
EARLY ONE MORNING, as Deb Jones was heading outside her Palm Harbor home to walk her dog, a neighbor driving past shouted to her that there was a possum on the side of the road by her house. Deb anxiously walked over to the little guy; he did not look good, but was still breathing. Not sure what to do, she remembered that the SPCA Tampa Bay had a wildlife rescue team and called them immediately. She was relieved to hear they would be there soon, as the crows had already started swooping down to get at the possum. Deb parked herself on the side of the road next to the critter, frantically waving a towel to keep the birds away. Deb stayed put, not budging an inch, until help arrived. “I’m sure I must have looked crazy, but I did not want the crows to get him before the SPCA crew got there.”

Rick, a rescue team member, stepped out of the van and walked over to Deb and her frail friend. He slowly leaned over and gently began petting the possum, eventually taking it in his hands and walking to his van to deliver back to the shelter for care and treatment. Deb was amazed at how loving and knowledgeable Rick was. He shared with her that he had cared for many possums and assured her that they would take great care of this one too. “He was so great...I was really impressed with how he handled the rescue!”

That day was the beginning of Deb and her husband Jim’s relationship with the SPCA Tampa Bay. They began making contributions, visited the shelter regularly and have adopted two cats since that first morning. The couple moved to Florida 15 years ago from Ohio and have enjoyed watching the area grow and change. They both continue to work, but enjoy having flexible schedules. Jim travels back and forth to California for his remodeling business and Deb is happy to have time every week to visit her mother in Clearwater. And, they LOVE spending time with their furry family!

Earlier this year, as Deb and Jim were reading the most recent SPCA Newsletter, they were drawn to an article outlining the process of making a planned gift by naming the organization as a beneficiary of a retirement fund. The light bulb went on! The couple has no children or as Jim chuckles, “We don’t have kids to put through college.” Deb called right away to get details on how she could name the SPCA as the beneficiary to her IRA account. “It was so easy and a very simple process with no upfront costs to us.”

Jim and Deb are thrilled to be a part of the SPCA Heritage Society and hope their story is an encouragement to others to get involved. “Our bottom line is this isn’t about us, it’s simply about doing the right thing whether it be adopting, helping wildlife or donating. I think sometimes people just don’t know where to start so they give up. Maybe just a little bit of information will get them thinking.”

If you would like to learn more about naming the SPCA Tampa Bay as a beneficiary to your retirement account or including us in your estate plan, please contact LINDA BAK, Director of Philanthropy, at 727-373-8845 or LBak@SPCATampaBay.org

LEARN MORE
GOOD FOR YOU – Good for SPCA TAMPA BAY

THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIP with the COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF TAMPA BAY, you can make a life-time gift that will generate income for you and leave a gift to the SPCA.

A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY provides fixed payments for life in exchange for a gift of cash or securities to SPCA Tampa Bay. With the generous increase in annuity rates in 2018, this is an extremely effective way to reach both your retirement and philanthropic goals. Gift annuities are easy to set up and the payments you receive are backed by the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay.

A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY COULD BE RIGHT FOR YOU IF:

- You want to maintain or increase your cash flow.
- You want the security of fixed, dependable payments for life.
- You want to save income taxes or capital gains taxes.
- You would like income that is partially tax-free.
- You want to make a generous gift to SPCA Tampa Bay.
- You are considering a gift amount of $25,000 or more.
- You are at least 65 years of age.

HOW IT WORKS

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY RATES*

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<th>ONE LIFE</th>
<th>TWO LIVES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Age 70</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Example</td>
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<tr>
<td>$100,000 at 5.1% = $5,100 annually</td>
<td>$100,000 at 4.6% = $4,600 annually</td>
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*Current rates as provided by the American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA)

For more information, including an illustration of how a gift annuity works, call Denyve Boyle at 813-609-4868.
PET PLANNING: What happens to your pet when something happens to you?

Do you have your estate plan together? Does it include your beloved pets? Want to learn more about pet and estate planning?

ATTEND OUR SEMINAR AND WE WILL DISCUSS

• Pet Planning and SPCA Tampa Bay’s Legacy of Love Pet Trust and SPCA Pet Guardian Care program
• Incapacity Planning, including who to name to help you
• Wills, Trusts and Probate
• Charitable Planning

SEMINAR DATES & LOCATIONS

Sunday, May 19 and November 17, 2019 | 2:00 p.m.
St. Pete Veterinary Center • 3250 5th Ave N • St. Pete, FL 33713

Saturday, August 24, 2019 | 10:00 a.m.
SPCA Tampa Bay Largo Shelter • Ike & Libby Einherst Education Building, 1st Floor • 9099 130th Ave N. Largo, FL 33773

LIMITED SEATING – RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!

To RSVP, visit SPCATampaBay.org/seminar-rsvp/ or contact Linda Bak

727-581-3249 LBak@SPCATampaBay.org
I am pleased to inform you that:

☐ I have included SPCA Tampa Bay in my estate plans.

☐ I am considering including SPCA Tampa Bay in my estate plans.

Please contact me regarding the following:

☐ a gift by will or trust

☐ Pet trust or Pet guardian care program

☐ a charitable gift annuity

☐ an IRA charitable distribution

If you have any questions, contact
Linda G. Bak,
Director of Philanthropy,
phone – 727-581-3249, or
email – LBak@SPCATampaBay.org
or visit us at
SPCATampaBay.org/leave-your-legacy/