



GIFTS OF RETIREMENT PLAN ASSETS

SELF-REALIZATION FELLOWSHIP
PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM



Self-Realization Fellowship

FOUNDED 1920

Paramahansa Yogananda

GIFTS OF RETIREMENT PLAN ASSETS

Retirement plans such as 401(k) plans, 403(b) plans, Keogh plans, and Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) have become an increasingly popular way to save money for retirement. These plans offer important tax advantages for you: Your contributions are tax deductible for federal and often state income tax purposes, and the investment earnings on your contributions grow tax-deferred until they are distributed to you.

You may not realize that your retirement plan assets are some of the most tax-burdened assets to leave to your heirs, and some of the most tax-efficient assets you can leave to charity, such as Self-Realization Fellowship (SRF).

TAX CONSEQUENCES OF TESTAMENTARY DISTRIBUTIONS OF RETIREMENT PLAN ASSETS TO YOUR HEIRS

Many people choose to designate their heirs as beneficiaries of their retirement plan assets. However, by doing so, your heirs may see only a small fraction of your gift. This is because retirement plan assets are taxed differently than other assets in your estate upon your passing.

A distribution of retirement plan assets to your heirs may be subject to both federal and state income taxes, and federal and state estate taxes, before an individual beneficiary (other than your spouse) can receive them after your passing. Your spouse, however, is subject only to income tax, but not estate tax, on distributions of retirement benefits. Depending on the size of your estate, the combined taxes may reduce the amount of your bequest to an individual beneficiary (other than your spouse) by as much as 65% to 70% percent, leaving your heirs with only 30 to 35 cents on the dollar.

TAX CONSEQUENCES OF TESTAMENTARY DISTRIBUTIONS OF RETIREMENT PLAN ASSETS TO SRF

Rather than see your retirement savings diminished by taxes, you may wish to consider making a bequest of a part or all of your retirement benefits to Self-Realization Fellowship and use other less tax-burdened assets from your estate for bequests to your heirs. Using your retirement plan as a gift vehicle can be a tax-efficient way to fund your bequest to SRF.

If you name SRF as the primary or secondary beneficiary of retirement plan benefits, the double taxation is avoided. Although the retirement assets left in your estate for the benefit of SRF are still included in the taxable estate, they are fully deductible from the estate as charitable gifts. The result is that, generally, 100% of your gift will go to support the mission of SRF.

DESIGNATION OF SELF-REALIZATION FELLOWSHIP AS PRIMARY OR SECONDARY BENEFICIARY

To name SRF as primary or secondary beneficiary of your retirement plan or IRA, simply request from your plan administrator or IRA custodian a Change of Beneficiary Designation form. Indicate whether you wish SRF to be the primary or secondary beneficiary, and the amount or percentage of assets you wish to leave to SRF. You can change your beneficiary at any time, should your needs or wishes change. The consent of your spouse to your designation may be necessary in certain circumstances.

The Change of Beneficiary Designation form typically requests the following information:

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| 1. Primary or Secondary Beneficiary: | Indicate your preference |
| 2. Percentage of Benefit: | Indicate percentage |
| 3. Name of Beneficiary: | Self-Realization Fellowship Church |
| 4. Address: | 3880 San Rafael Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90065 |
| 5. Federal Tax Identification Number: | 95-1942336 |
| 6. Your Relationship to the Beneficiary: | Charity |

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

For your information, your retirement plan account or IRA custodian will require a death certificate before making a distribution to your beneficiary. Without the death certificate, your beneficiary will not be able to access the funds in your account. For this reason, if you designate SRF as a beneficiary, it is important for you to provide us the means to obtain this document through the executor or personal representative of your will or trust. It is also important for you to provide SRF with your Social Security number on the form attached. We will keep the information you provide in strictest confidence.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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