

# EASY DOES IT

Some years ago, you had an attorney prepare a will for you. *OK*, you thought, *Now that job is done!* You took your new will home, locked it safely away – and forgot all about it.

But time, as it does, has marched on. The old friend you named as personal representative is now incapacitated. You've been helping one grandchild quite a bit financially, and would like to modify your bequest to him to reflect that. The estate tax law seems to keep changing.

And just last week, Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina asked you to consider naming PCSC in your will.

What to do? Basically, your old will still works fine – it just needs some minor adjustments. Do you need to go to the time and expense of writing a whole new will just to make those changes?

*Easy does it!* A simple codicil may be all that's needed to bring your estate plan up to date. A codicil is a document that makes specific, limited amendments to your existing will, but leaves all other provisions unchanged. With a codicil, you can change the name of your personal representative, modify the amount you will leave to a family member, or remove a bequest of property you no longer own. A codicil is simple, effective, and fully legal. Here are the details:

## IS A CODICIL A LEGAL DOCUMENT?

The codicil is just as legal and binding as the will it is amending. It is signed and witnessed like a will, and should be kept in the same safe place where you have your will. If you've given a copy of your will to your personal representative or any family members, be sure to give them a copy of your codicil, too. You want to make sure that

they know the current status of your plans for your estate. It's important for the folks who already have a copy of your will to be up to date.

## WHAT WILL IT COST?

Expect it to be quite reasonable. The will that you wrote has already done the heavy lifting by addressing your overall estate plan. Now you are just fine tuning things, and the cost of amending your will with a codicil will be noticeably less than the fee for your will.

Contact the attorney who drew up your will to find out what a codicil will cost. Or, choose another attorney to do the job.

## AND THAT BEQUEST TO PCSC?

A gift to PCSC through your estate delivers crucial benefits to the seniors we serve at no cost to you during your lifetime. A bequest strengthens our ministry and helps ensure that we'll still be enhancing the lives of older adults long into the future. Even if you've already written a will, you can add a bequest to us by using a simple codicil. A codicil is your *"easy does it"* way to make the gift that will bring so much good to our residents.

We will gladly send you and your attorney sample language for a codicil that adds a gift to PCSC to your will. Easy does it – and thank you for considering a gift to support the older adults we serve!

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*A compassionate Christian ministry  
dedicated to enriching the quality  
of life for seniors of all faiths*



*A 501(c)(3) non-profit that receives and manages  
charitable gifts given to support the mission and ministry  
of Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina*