



# LEAVE A LEGACY

*Secure the Future of Independent,  
Investigative Journalism*



We share a common belief: that investigative journalism has the power to foster accountability and drive positive change.

In a world where trust is in increasingly short supply, you trust the Center for Investigative Reporting to bring truth to light—no matter how long it takes.

Democracy depends on a free press and an engaged, informed citizenry. In the 1970s, our founders made a bet that people would pitch in to keep independent, investigative journalism going because it's so rare and essential.

Our work isn't funded by a billionaire or a hedge fund—it's funded mostly by the thousands of readers and supporters who give what they can to ensure a future for independent journalism.

It's also supported by those who have valued our work so much that they left a gift in their will to support the future of independent journalism.

We hope you will join them. A gift in your will or living trust, or through a beneficiary designation, won't cost you anything right now, but it can ensure that the Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR) continues to dig deep, expose the truth, and never turn our backs on a critical story.

The need for courageous and accurate reporting isn't going anywhere anytime soon and neither is CIR. If everyone who might have funds left over after their lifetime—after taking care of family and other loved ones—allocated a small percentage to our nonprofit news organization, it would transform our ability to weather the storms threatening independent journalism.

The actions we take now will shape the future for our children and their children. We believe that supporting the future of CIR's fearless, groundbreaking journalism is one of the most important gifts you can offer those who follow us.

## ◆◆ | SIMPLE, FLEXIBLE WAYS TO GIVE

A gift in your will or by beneficiary designation requires no immediate donation, and you can change your mind at any time.

You can name the Center for Investigative Reporting as a secondary or contingent beneficiary, so we only get your gift if your other beneficiaries are not in need of support.

We welcome gifts in any amount. Even 1% of what remains after your loved ones are remembered can have an enormous impact.



### **A Gift in Your Will or Living Trust**

There are several ways to include a gift to the Center for Investigative Reporting in your will or living trust. You can:

- leave some percentage of your estate;
- leave a defined sum of money;
- leave a percentage of what's left over after other gifts and debts are paid and your loved ones are provided for;
- make a secondary or contingent gift that comes to CIR only if your other beneficiaries do not survive you or other specific gifts cannot be fulfilled.

Your attorney can help you determine the type of gift that would be best for you; you can share this example language with them:

**I give and devise to the Center for Investigative Reporting (Tax ID #94-2282759), located in San Francisco, CA, <description of gift> to be used for its general support (or for the support of a specific fund or program).**

If you would like to direct your gift to a particular project or for a particular purpose, we can discuss that with you. We can then assist you and your attorney in drafting language that ensures your gift will be used as you intend.

### **A Gift by Beneficiary Designation**

A gift by beneficiary designation is simple: Just sign your name! You can name the Center for Investigative

Reporting as a beneficiary of your:

- Retirement accounts
- Life insurance plans
- Donor-advised funds (DAF)
- Bank and brokerage accounts

As with gifts in your will, you can designate all or a percentage of the funds in your account, and you can name us as a primary beneficiary or a second-in-line beneficiary. And, of course, you can change your mind at any time.

To make a gift through a beneficiary designation, contact your retirement plan administrator, insurance company, bank, or financial institution for a change-of-beneficiary form. You may be able to request or download your form from your online account portal.

If you have a donor-advised fund, you can designate CIR to receive all or some of the funds remaining at the end of your life as part of your fund succession plan.

You can also make a current gift to CIR from your IRA through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD); if you are over age 70.5, you can make a gift directly from your IRA and avoid paying any income tax on the distribution. If you must take a Required Minimum Distribution, you can use some or all of it to make your gift.

Please use our legal name and Tax ID number:

**The Center for Investigative Reporting**  
**Tax ID #94-2282759**

And please let us know. Some financial institutions will not notify us after your lifetime that we are a beneficiary; sharing your wishes now helps ensure your gift will be distributed as you wish. We will always keep your information confidential, and you can update your plans at any time.

#### ◆◆ | FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

##### **Do I need a will?**

Yes! Every adult needs a will (or living trust, or both) and should review it every five years or so to ensure that it's up to date. A will and/or living trust accomplishes some important tasks, including allocating your assets, reflecting your most important relationships, designating guardians for children and caregivers for beloved companion animals, and even giving gifts to charity.

##### **I have a will and/or trust, but I'm not able to update it now. How can I include a gift to CIR?**

Naming us a beneficiary of your retirement plan, financial account, or donor-advised fund is as simple as updating your beneficiary designation form and doesn't require an attorney.

##### **A legacy gift is very personal. Can I trust CIR to use my gift wisely?**

Yes! We are proud of our effectiveness and financial transparency. We invite you to download our latest financial reports at [motherjones.com/about/financials](https://motherjones.com/about/financials).

##### **I have family or loved ones I need to take care of. How can I do that and still support CIR?**

You can make us a beneficiary of a small percentage of your estate or account, or name us a secondary or contingent beneficiary so we only receive a gift if your primary beneficiary doesn't survive you.

##### **What if I include a gift to CIR in my will or other plan but change my mind?**

None of us knows what the future holds. And we understand that, sometimes, a gift that has been directed to CIR must be allocated to more pressing needs. But the decision is always yours to make. You are never obligated by a giving decision you make today.

#### ◆◆ | AT YOUR SERVICE

You are in no way obligated to do so, but we hope that you will let us know if you have planned a legacy gift for CIR. We will never require details you are not comfortable sharing, and we will always respect your right to change your plans. We are grateful for your consideration of such a meaningful gift.

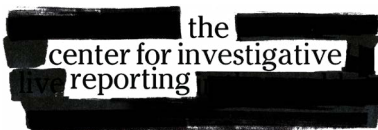
If you have already named the Center for Investigative Reporting as a beneficiary, please let us know so that we can thank you for your generous foresight and count you among the members of our Legacy Society.

If you have any questions, we are available to speak with you and discuss your options. Please be in touch!

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**415-321-1706**

**Discover more resources at:**  
**[www.motherjones.com/legacy](https://www.motherjones.com/legacy)**

We also encourage you to consult your professional tax or legal adviser prior to establishing a legacy gift, and to discuss your plans with your family or other trusted advisors.



**[www.motherjones.com/legacy](https://www.motherjones.com/legacy)**