

Making a Difference...

Your contribution will help to strengthen and protect services offered to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence. As a person who cares about this issue, you have the power to keep First Step services strong—today, tomorrow and beyond.

Even a modest sized planned gift can make an enormous difference. All the materials you have worked for—personal property, assets like retirement funds and insurance policies—these are the tools of charitable gift planning, tools that will allow you to express your beliefs and values. Planned gifts can also provide you with valuable tax benefits, and even an additional source of income for life.

First Step offers **free and confidential** services for victims of domestic and sexual violence:

- * 24-hour help line
- * Counseling
- * Advocacy
- * On-call 24-hour assault response
- * Court advocacy and legal information (help with protection orders)
- * Temporary emergency housing (Shelter)
- * Children's services
- * Certified phone interpretation service.



The Mission and Values of First Step

The mission of First Step is to eliminate both domestic and sexual violence, and to provide comprehensive services to individuals and families impacted by these crimes.

Together, we can create Peaceful Families and Safe Communities.

Safety:

Our commitment to safety is paramount

Empowerment-Based Advocacy:

We advocate with a holistic approach which is client driven

Social Justice:

We demand fairness and equality for all

Value Resources:

We are conscientious stewards of our resources

Community Action:

We engage in strategic partnerships to maximize the impact of our work

Integrity:

We adhere to a high ethical standard while doing out work with honesty and professionalism

First Step

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First Step Planned Giving





Continue a Lifetime of Support, with Many Ways to Give

A planned giving can often help you make a more significant gift than you may have thought possible without sacrificing income or security for your family.

- A bequest in your living will or trust lets you take care of your loved ones first, and make a remarkable difference at First Step.
- Naming us among the beneficiaries will assist your heirs, while sharing your generosity with others.
- A gift of life insurance will transform a modest investment into a much larger benefit for you and the families we serve.

Legal Language and Tax ID

If you wish to name First Step in your will or estate plan, we should be named as **First Step the Western Wayne County Project on Domestic Assault**.

TAX ID: 38-220-8980

How to Name First Step In your Will

There are many important issue to consider when drafting your will, but you can get started right now by following a few simple steps.

1. **Get Organized:** Gather all of your important documents in one place. You may be surprised to find out how much you actually have. Write down a list of all of your valuable property and be specific. Instead of writing "Car," list "2010 Ford Focus, VIN# 0123456789012."
2. **Set Your Priorities:** Make a list of all the people and organizations that you want to remember in your will by leaving them some of your property. If you plan to make a charitable bequest, be sure to get the organizations legal name, current address, and whenever possible, its tax exempt ID number.
3. **Review Your Beneficiary Designations:** Review all your checking accounts, savings accounts, brokerage accounts, retirement plans, pension plans and any other assets for which you may have made a beneficiary updates or changes.
4. **Think About Guardians:** If you have minor children or an older parent or other adult whom you care for, be sure to appoint a guardian for them in your will.
5. **Choose An Executor:** Select a person you trust to serve as your executor. You may want to pick one or two alternates in case your first choice is unwilling or unable to serve.

How to Name First Step In your Will

6. **Hire An Attorney:** Ask friends and colleagues for referrals, and call for an initial consultation to find someone with whom you are comfortable. Ask about fees in advance, and tell your lawyer whom you wish to benefit and what you wish to accomplish in drafting your will.

7. **Review and Update Your Will On A Regular Basis:** The saying goes: "Life is what happens when you are busy making other plans." Our lives are constantly changing - you will need to be updated periodically to reflect such life changes as:

- The death of a beneficiary
- Marriage, divorce or remarriage
- The birth of a child or grandchild
- An inheritance
- The purchase of a new asset such as life insurance, a new home, etc.
- A bequest to an organization to commemorate a loved one or to recognize the good work of your favorite charity.

Let us know your plans. First Step will provide special recognition for all planned gifts.

