

GUIDELINES ON GIFTS OF LIFE INSURANCE TO CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS

These Guidelines have been prepared for use by state insurance department personnel who may be presented with questions or concerns regarding charitable gifts of life insurance. Of course, each state's laws on the issues discussed may differ, and the following discussion should be read with that in mind.

- Q. What is meant by a gift of life insurance?
- A. As a general principle, the gift of a life insurance policy to any recipient, whether such recipient is a charity or other third party, involves the same considerations and characteristics as a gift of any other property owned by the donor. Once the transaction is made, the ownership of the policy and all ownership rights under the policy, including the ability to change the beneficiary, are forever transferred from the donor to the recipient.
- Q. What is meant by "charitable institutions?"
- A. Charitable institutions are typically non-profit, tax-exempt organizations such as corporations or foundations organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes or to foster amateur sports or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals.
- Q. How is a gift of life insurance to a charity accomplished?
- A. A gift of life insurance to a charity is generally accomplished in one of two ways, although there are varying alternatives within these two categories. The gift may be either of an existing policy, in the form of an irrevocable assignment to the charity, or it may be the purchase of a new policy by the insured, or with the consent of the insured, by the charity on the life of the insured, to the benefit of the charity.
- Q.

- A. Two examples of statutory responses to such concerns are Colorado House Bill 1031 enacted in 1992