WHAT IS A RETAINED LIFE ESTATE?

A Retained Life Estate is a way to give your home to UCR while maintaining the right to live in and enjoy the property.

HOW DOES A RETAINED LIFE ESTATE WORK?

A retained life estate may be created by deeding your home, farm, or ranch to UC Riverside. A provision is included in the deed that reserves your ability to continue to use and enjoy the property. This right of use – called a life estate – can last for your life (and another person’s life) or a number of years. When the person who owns the “life estate” passes away, we will make full use of the property or sell it and use the proceeds to further our mission.

BENEFITS

Income Tax Deduction: You can receive an income tax deduction this year even though we won’t own or use your property until the future.

Flexibility: A retained life estate is a useful way to give if you wish to support UCR and want to make a gift today without using cash or other assets. It is especially attractive if you own property that has appreciated in value, you are willing to give the property away, and you don’t plan to pass it on to your heirs.

Immediate: A retained life estate offers you the opportunity to make a meaningful gift this year, while also receiving a tax-saving charitable deduction.

Simple to Make: While there are issues to consider, such as who will pay for the maintenance, insurance, and property taxes, the arrangement is generally as simple as transferring your property under state law.
QUALIFIED PROPERTY
Nearly any property you use as a residence or for agricultural purposes will qualify as a retained life estate gift.

Residential Property
You may take an income tax deduction for a gift of any property used as a personal residence. A personal residence is “any property used by the taxpayer as his personal residence even though it is not used as his principal residence.”

Vacation Property
Your vacation home or even stock owned by you as a tenant-stockholder in a cooperative housing corporation may be used if the home is used by you as your personal residence.

Farm Property
A remainder interest in a farm also qualifies for a retained life estate charitable income tax deduction. A farm is any property (including the fixtures, buildings, grain bins, and other permanent improvements) you or your tenant may use for the production of agricultural products or the sustenance of livestock.

Create a life estate for a number of years or for life.

LIFE ESTATE FOR A TERM OR YEARS:
You may reserve the life estate for a specified number of years.

LIFE ESTATE FOR LIFE:
You may reserve the life estate for your life and another person’s life.
PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Your circumstances may require special consideration when creating a retained life estate.

Restrictions

The deed creating your gift to UCR must not be restricted. You may not, for example, require that we sell the property and divide the proceeds with another individual or organization.

Mortgages

Please talk with us and your advisor if you wish to use mortgaged property. Your deduction may be based only on the equity you own in the property. Any indebtedness secured by the property will pass with the property to UCR.

Retirement Homes

If you later need to move to a retirement facility, you can still maintain your charitable gift. You have the ability to lease the property and receive rental income for the remainder of your life or the life estate term.

Maintenance Insurance and Taxes

At the time you create your life estate, you will need to sign a separate agreement stating your obligations as life tenant. You will be required to pay for the maintenance costs, insurance and property taxes.

Terminating the Remainder

Once the life estate is created, you may sell the portion of the property reserved for your use to UCR, or simply give it to us early. You and UCR may also agree to sell the property to a third party.

Charitable Gift Annuity

It is possible to exchange your right to use of the property for fixed payments from a charitable gift annuity.

YOU CAN GIVE YOUR PROPERTY TO UCR WHILE LIVING IN IT

A retained life estate is a way that you can make a significant gift to UCR today. By deeding your farm or residence to us while reserving a life estate, you will receive an immediate income tax deduction and retain the right to continue to use and enjoy the property. Contact us to learn more or view a custom illustration with your property and tax savings.