

HOW CAN YOU BENEFIT THE OSA?

There are various ways of remembering the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad in your will and supporting us in the things we do:

By means of a legacy (bequest), you can leave the OSA either a fixed sum of money or specific assets (such as real property, works of art, etc.). Legacies are always given to their recipients before the inheritance is distributed.

By making the OSA an heir, you can leave the OSA all of your estate or a specific part of it. As a rule, the inheritance is managed by the heirs themselves, who are responsible for distributing it and passing on any legacies, provided no executor has been appointed.

By making the OSA the beneficiary of an insurance policy, you can leave the OSA some of the money you have accumulated from your pension fund, death benefits or pension insurance. You can arrange this with any current insurance policy. We advise you to tell the beneficiaries yourself (e.g. by copying them in), as the insurer is not obliged to inform them.

By making a donation or the promise of a donation, you can let the OSA have a particular amount of money at the time of your choice. You can do it while you are still alive. You can deduct some of the amount donated from your taxable assets.

The OSA will use the inheritance entirely for the benefit of Swiss people abroad in accordance with the testator's instructions.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

If you are interested in benefiting the OSA, we are happy to provide you with any information you need, whenever you need it. We will also put you in touch with a lawyer we know and trust, who will explain to you the law as it applies to statutory shares in your estate, mandatory shares and the percentages of it you can dispose of as you wish.

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ADVICE ON WILLS, INHERITANCES AND LEGACIES

Take a stand for the
next generation.



Auslandschweizer-Organisation
Organisation des Suisses de l'étranger
Organizzazione degli Svizzeri all'estero
Organisaziun dals Svizzers a l'ester

HOW IS THE ORGANISATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD FUNDED AND WHAT DOES IT DO WITH ITS MONEY?

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) is a private foundation. The foundation is dependent on financial support from the private sector in the form of donations, sponsorship, bequests and legacies. **It is proving increasingly difficult to obtain the funding required from private sources in the current economic climate.**

The OSA is the centre of expertise for matters concerning Swiss people living abroad.

The OSA is a politically and religiously neutral and independent non-governmental organisation. **It defends and represents the interests of Swiss citizens living abroad and offers them a wide range of services.**

Swiss people living abroad are to be found on every continent. **It is vital that this multi-lingual and multi-cultural community be held together and maintained.** The OSA is committed to doing this and applies itself with a great deal of enthusiasm to maintaining strong ties between the Swiss expat community and Switzerland and among people living abroad.

Further information about what the OSA does and the services it offers can be found on its website – www.aso.ch

WHY DRAFT A WILL?

Writing a will certainly does not mean you see life as over. On the contrary, a will or testamentary disposition gives you a chance to provide for a living future. It is an expression of your philosophy of life, your values and your feelings. And it makes it possible for what you leave behind to be used out the way you want it to be.

A will or an inheritance contract enables you to get everything organised while still alive and help your heirs and family to put your last wishes into effect the way you want it done. No matter what your financial circumstances, you decide, subject to the provisions of law, what is to happen to your assets. **The fact of the matter is that, if you do not make a will, your estate will be disposed of the way the law says it has to be.**

Make a will and you can consciously support something that matters to you. Maybe you have valued the OSA's services for many years and want to thank the organisation by giving something back?

HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT MAKING A WILL?

In Switzerland, there are two ways of drawing up a legally valid will.

A public will is drafted by a notary or another official authorised as an authenticator and is signed in the presence of two witnesses. This is mainly done when the testator can no longer write or does not want to, or when the bequests are complex.

A holographic will is written by the testator in their own hand and must include the year, month, day and signature. The signature must identify the testator beyond any doubt. We recommend that you add your first names and surname to your signature.

WHAT BASIC RULES APPLY TO AN ESTATE?

As a rule, the **law of the country of domicile** determines which **law is applied to the estate**. That means that the rules applicable to the drafting of a will may differ from the ones mentioned above. You do, though, have the option of specifying in your will that your estate is to be subject to Swiss law. Not all countries in which you might be domiciled recognise this type of clause, however. Check first in your country of domicile and find out whether you have the option of making your estate subject to Swiss law.

Please note: It is generally not possible to make a bequest of a building or plot of land subject to Swiss law if it is located outside Switzerland.

