# Clara Maass Medical Center Foundation

## "Too Late. I Already Have a Will."

*It's not too late, and here's why.*

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## Life Changes. So Can Your Will.

Some years ago, you had an attorney prepare a will for you. Okay, you thought, now that job is done! You locked your new will safely away — and forgot all about it.

But, inevitably, life has changed since you first completed your will. The old friend you named as personal representative is now incapacitated. You've been helping one grandchild quite a bit financially, and would like to modify your bequest to him to reflect that. The estate tax laws seem to constantly change.

And you would like to add Clara Maass Medical Center Foundation to your will or increase your charitable bequest.

What to do? Basically, your old will still works fine — with some minor adjustments. Do you need to go to the time and expense of writing a whole new will just to make those changes?

A simple codicil may be all that's needed to bring your estate plan up to date. A codicil is a document that makes specific, limited amendments to your existing will, but leaves all other provisions unchanged. With a codicil, you can change the name of your personal representative, modify the amount you will leave to a family member, or remove a bequest of property you no longer own. A codicil is simple, effective, and fully legal. Here are the details:

## Is a Codicil a Legal Document?

The codicil is just as legal and binding as the will it is amending. It is signed and witnessed like a will, and should be kept in the same safe place where you have your will. If you've given a copy of your will to your personal representative or any family members, be sure to give them a copy of your codicil, too. You want to make sure that they know the current status of your estate plans and are kept up to date.

## What Will it Cost?

Expect it to be quite reasonable. The will that you wrote has already done the heavy lifting by addressing your overall estate plan. Now you are just fine-tuning things, and the cost of amending your will with a codicil should be noticeably less than the fee for your will.

Contact the attorney who drew up your will to find out what a codicil will cost. Or, choose another attorney to do the job.

A gift to Clara Maass Medical Center Foundation through your estate delivers crucial benefits to us at no cost to you during your lifetime. A bequest builds our financial strength and helps ensure that we'll still be doing the work that you value today, long into the future. Even if you've already written a will, you can add a bequest to us by using a simple codicil. A codicil is your "easy does it" way to make the gift that will bring so much good to us.

We will send you and your attorney, at no obligation, sample language for a codicil that adds a gift to Clara Maass Medical Center Foundation to your will. Easy does it — and thank you for considering a gift to us.

## Contact Information

Planning your estate and legacy for future generations including your charitable interests takes careful evaluation. Consulting with the appropriate professionals can assist you. Discussing your charitable intentions with us can lead to a much better result than going it alone — and will ensure that your gift is used just as you wish. We can provide valuable information about any of the creative giving techniques mentioned in these planned giving pages.

Act now to take the steps that you need to do to be a good steward of the resources you intend to leave behind. You can contact us below, or use our request for information form on our website to get more information.

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