



## Frequently Asked Questions

*Knowledge is power.*

**Q: What is a waqf?**

**A:** A waqf (plural: awqaf) is a permanent, irrevocable transfer of a portion of one's movable or immovable assets to Allah for His pleasure. The asset thus becomes Allah's property forever.

The person who makes a waqf is called a waqif (m) waqifa (f).

**Q: What is the minimum amount of the waqf?**

There is no minimum or maximum. A waqif/a is free to give any amount for a waqf. It could be a cent, R1, R100, R1million or more.

**Q: Apart from cash, what other ways can I make a waqf?**

You can make a waqf with any possession. It could be jewellery, a house, real estate, shares in a business, furniture, or any other personal possession.

**Q: Is the waqf capital utilised for expenses?**

**A:** No. The waqf capital may be utilised only for capital investments to be used by the beneficiaries or generate an income. For example a masjid, madressa, a student hostel, a factory, a water well, etc. or investment in a block of flats, or houses, or a business.

**Q: What can the income or waqf revenue be used for?**

**A:** Waqf revenue may be used for any purpose within the shariah. For example: maintenance of masjid and madressah, imam/asatiza/staff salaries, job creation, skills, training, low cost housing, small business loans/grants, animal care, teacher subsidies, scholarships and bursaries, taking care of street children, provision of health care, youth programmes, dawah, or anything that the community needs.

**Q: Who can be the beneficiaries of a waqf?**

**A:** The beneficiaries of a waqf-lillah may be any person, Muslim or non-Muslim, poor or rich, any creation of Allah (plants, animals, the environment), or any cause in the way of Allah.

**Q: Who decides on who should be the beneficiary or beneficiaries?**

**A:** The waqif/a decides (designated waqf) or whoever the waqif/a has authorised to decide (discretionary waqf).

**Q: What is a waqf mutawallee?**

**A:** The waqf mutawallee is the person, male or female, that the waqif/a appoints as a trustee to carry out his/her wishes. An institution may also be appointed as mutawallee. The mutawalle must qualify in terms of the shariah.

**Q: Does the waqf ever come to an end?**

**A:** No. The waqf is perpetual, as long as there are assets in the waqf.

**Q: Who can make a waqf?**

**A:** Any free *baaligh* male or female, of sound mind, may make a waqf

**Q: I want to make a waqf. How must I make it?**

**A:** First you must make a niyah. Then you must draw up a waqfiyyah. You must then transfer the assets into the waqf.

**Q: Can I make monthly payments?**

**A:** Yes. You may sign a stop order or a debit order, or you may give post-dated cheques.

**Q: How else can I make a waqf?**

You can make a waqf of up to 1/3 of your estate through your will. Make sure that you include AWQAF SA, amongst others, for a portion of your waqf.

**Q: How will I know what is going on in my waqf?**

**A:** Once you make waqf through AWQAF SA you are entitled to all reports and are eligible to attend the Annual General Meeting, and you are also eligible to join structures of the organisation as a volunteer or by nomination and election.

**Q: Where can I get help or find out more about waqf or AWQAF SA?**

**A:** You may contact our office by fax, phone, or email, and we will advise you of a AWQAF SA advisor nearest to you.

