

With Strings Attached: New Jersey Courts Enforce Donor Conditions on Gifts and Trusts

Articles

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In an article written for the New Jersey Law Journal, [Andrew Fede](#) explains that New Jersey courts strongly enforce donor-imposed conditions on charitable gifts and trusts, recognizing donor standing to challenge deviations even when such rights are not expressly reserved. Through key appellate decisions, the article highlights the judiciary's consistent emphasis on honoring donor intent, including requiring refunds when charities materially depart from agreed purposes, rejecting attempts to invoke the cy pres doctrine where compliance remains feasible, and holding trustees liable for breaching fiduciary duties by disregarding explicit instructions. These rulings underscore that recipients, whether nonprofits, municipalities, or trustees, must carefully evaluate their ability to comply with donor restrictions before accepting gifts, as failure to adhere to those conditions can result in legal liability and financial consequences.

Click [here](#) to read the complete article.

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