

A guide to leaving a gift in your Will

Small or large, every gift we receive in a Will makes a vital contribution to our work. But how do you go about arranging it?

Here's a quick summary on what to do next:

1) The first step is to talk to a solicitor or professional advisor

If you don't already have a Will, a solicitor will be able to draft one for you. This is usually inexpensive and vital if you want to make sure that everything is done correctly. By having a proper Will in place you can be sure your wishes will get carried out – from providing for your loved ones through to leaving a gift to your favourite charity. Even if you already have one, it's easy for the solicitor to add your gift by using what's known as a 'codicil'.

2) Now it's time to think about what you're going to leave

You can discuss this when you meet with your solicitor, however it's well worth thinking about it beforehand. What you'll need to consider are the things you own, e.g. your property, possessions and investments and the things you owe, e.g. your mortgage, loans etc. That way you'll have a clear idea about how much you have and who you'd like to leave it to.

3) How would you like to make your gift to us?

Once you've made provision for your loved ones, you can then look at how you'd like to make your gift. You can either leave a specific amount of money, which is known as a Pecuniary Bequest, or a share of what's left over after all your wishes have been carried out, which is a Residuary Bequest. Rather than leaving a precise sum of money, many choose to leave a percentage or the residue of their estate as it means that its value will not be affected by inflation.

You can choose to make a straightforward gift to where the need is greatest. This is the most simple option because your gift is treated as 'general funds' and used wherever the need is greatest at the time. However you can also choose to support a specific area of our work.

4) Make sure you're word perfect

In any Will, it's essential that the wording is legally sound and that there's no chance that it might be misconstrued. That's where your solicitor will prove invaluable. Please note that we are unable to offer legal or financial advice and recommend that you obtain appropriate professional advice before making your Will.