

A guide to leaving a gift in your Will

*"I wish to go
tobogganing
in Austria."*

George, Wish Child, 4



How leaving a gift in your Will can help grant amazing wishes

Thank you for considering leaving a gift in your Will to Make-A-Wish. We truly couldn't make life-changing experiences happen without the generosity of people like you.

We go above and beyond to grant amazing wishes to inspiring children; making their wish a reality at a time when they need it most. Because a child's life shouldn't be about illness, hospitals and diagnosis – it should be about wonder, joy and hope.

The effects of a wish can build confidence and bring happiness, create incredible memories and give respite from the daily struggles that come with a serious illness.

If you leave a gift to Make-A-Wish, your money will help make wishes happen. Every wish is different – unique, varied and life-changing for the child and their family.

Your gift could send a family on a once-in-a-lifetime holiday together to reconnect and make precious memories, it could help to pay for a child to own a spa pool to help relax their muscles and gain freedom, or maybe it could help a child live their wish to be a king for the day.

Your legacy will help us grant even more wishes.

*"It was the high point of Finn being poorly.
It's one of the most precious times of our lives."*

Debbie, Finn's mum

*"The wish was something that brought our family
back together. We had grown apart a little bit."*

Nikki, wish child

Ali's gift to seriously ill children



Ali has been a wish visitor since 2012, visiting families and capturing a child's wish. As well as visiting families at the beginning of their wish journey, she recently chose to remember Make-A-Wish in her Will.

"One of my foster children was in remission from leukaemia, so we approached Make-A-Wish.

"Two volunteers visited us to discuss his wish and seeing the impression it left on him was wonderful. He was so much happier and inspired. After that, I said 'I've got to work with this organisation', so I joined as a volunteer wish visitor.

"To me, Make-A-Wish means putting a smile on a child's face. Seeing a child's eyes when you say, 'What do you wish for?' and the smile that comes over their face when you find out their likes and dislikes...it just lights up the room.

"When we bought our house, we decided to write a Will. I spoke to the solicitor about what I wanted to leave behind and thought of all the wish children I've visited over the years and how much Make-A-Wish means to me. I chose to leave 5% of our house to Make-A-Wish.

"It wasn't morbid at all; to me it feels like an incredible gift to make children smile after I'm gone. It's something to leave behind. I hope the gift I leave behind in my Will enables children's wishes to keep being granted in years to come."

Steps to leaving a gift in your Will



1. Planning or updating your Will

If you don't have a Will, it's a good starting point to think about all your assets and what you'd like to happen to them. Your Will tells everyone what you would like to happen to your money, property and possessions; it's your opportunity to make a lasting and positive statement about what matters most to you.

You'll also need to choose an executor, someone who makes sure that instructions in your Will are carried out. You can choose whoever you like to do this job and it can be more than one person.

We recommend you use a solicitor or Will writing service to write your Will to make sure it's legal and valid. We offer discounted Will writing services through The Goodwill Partnership:
thegoodwillpartnership.co.uk/make-a-wish

If you do have a Will, it's a good idea to review it from time to time. Things change and it's important to keep your Will up to date so that it reflects your wishes, for example, if you become a grandparent and want your grandchildren to be beneficiaries.

If you're making changes to an existing Will, it's still best to check with a solicitor and they can advise you about the best way to make any changes so that they're fully legal.

2. Types of gift you can leave

If you decide that you would like to leave a gift to Make-A-Wish there are three main ways you can do this:



A share of your estate – this is a percentage of your estate, also known as a residuary gift.



A fixed sum – this is a precise amount of money, also known as a pecuniary gift.



A specific item – you could choose to leave a particular item, such as a piece of jewellery or property.



In your Will, you can express if you would like your gift to go to a specific type of wish, such as travel wishes, or if you'd like to support wishes for children in a particular area of the UK.

3. Details for Make-A-Wish

If you choose to leave a gift to us, you'll need to pass some information on to your solicitor to include in your Will. We suggest the following which you can change, depending on the type of gift you choose to leave:

I give (insert % of share) of the residue of my real and personal estate OR

I give the sum of (insert fixed amount in numbers and words) OR

I give (insert description of the specific item)

to Make-A-Wish Foundation UK, Seventh Floor, Thames Tower, Station Road, Reading, RG1 1LX, registered charity numbers 295672 and SCO37479 to be applied for its general charitable purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Legacy Administration Manager or other proper officer at Make-A-Wish Foundation UK for the time being shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors.

4. Letting us know

You don't have to let us know if you choose to leave a gift to us, we understand that this is a very private thing, but we'd love to be able to say thank you if you do and it helps us with our planning. If you do want to let us know, please get in touch at fundraising@makeawish.org.uk

Thank you.



Reasons why you should make a Will

A Will is one of the most meaningful and important documents you will ever write. Here's why:

★ Your wishes your way

Your Will ensures that you're taking care of what's important to you in the way that you want. Without a Will, the law decides how to pass on your estate and the people and things you care about might not be included. A Will gives you peace of mind for the future so you can live your life today.

★ Help out your family and friends

Having a Will makes it an easier process for family and friends when dealing with your estate as they will have to follow your requests and it may help them to know they are carrying out your wishes.

★ Help reduce inheritance tax

If your Will specifies a gift to a charity this will reduce the amount of inheritance tax your estate is subject to, depending on the gift you leave. You can find out more at gov.uk/inheritance-tax or we recommend talking to a solicitor for more information.



"I wish to be a teacher for the day."

Leah, 7

It's brought us all so much joy seeing Leah so happy. It's one of those experiences she'll never forget."

Elaine, Leah's mum.

Help with planning your Will

Before you speak to a solicitor, it might help to note down a few details to help you plan for writing a Will. We've given you some headings to help with what to think about:

Beneficiaries: The people and causes that are important to you; list out everyone who you'd like to benefit from your estate, such as family, friends and charities.

Assets: Think about what you own under the broad headings below. You can try to estimate a value for each to help with your planning:

- Your home and any other property
- Possessions, such as car(s), furniture, jewellery, antiques (consider any sentimental items that you'd like to specify here)
- Money, including savings, pensions, shares and bonds, premium bonds

How you'd like to split your assets: As described earlier in this guide, you could choose to leave a share of your estate, for example half your estate to a son; a fixed sum, such as £5,000 to a niece or a specific item, like a specific painting to a daughter.

Executor(s): Have a think about who you'd like to carry out the instructions in your Will. They must be over 18 and they can also be a beneficiary of your Will. It's best to name at least two people.

Other notes: You may want to specify funeral arrangements in your Will or if you have young children, identify who will care for them in the event of your death.

Don't forget to take this information along to your Will writing session.



If you'd like to speak to someone at Make-A-Wish about leaving a gift in your Will, please get in touch:

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Thank you for considering Make-A-Wish as part of your legacy.

