



# How to make a ninja

Your guide to leaving a little **magic** in your Will



Make-A-Wish<sup>®</sup>  
UNITED KINGDOM



Kian

10 years old

Severe epilepsy

★  
**Ninja**  
★

**“We could see the excitement and enjoyment not only on Kian’s face, but his siblings’ too. They said it was the best day they’ve ever had.”**

Kellie, Kian’s mum

## **How leaving a gift in your Will can help grant life-changing wishes**

No child should be defined by their illness. By considering a gift in your Will to Make-A-Wish, you have taken the first step towards helping transform the life of a seriously ill child.

Children like Kian, pictured here, can so easily feel excluded from everything a healthy child can take for granted. For them, life is often a never-ending round of hospital visits, painful treatments and time spent away from their families.

By leaving a gift in your Will to Make-A-Wish you can give them a reminder of the carefree joy and wonder of childhood.

Your gift could send a family on a once-in-a-lifetime holiday, giving them a chance to reconnect and make precious memories. It could help pay for a child to own a spa pool to help relax their muscles and gain their freedom. Or maybe it could help a child live their wish to be a ninja – or a princess – for a day.

With gifts like yours, so many more children could have their wishes granted in the future. What greater gift could you leave than a little magic in your Will?

## How it feels to leave a little magic



Ali has volunteered with Make-A-Wish for more than 10 years – and she recently decided to include us in her Will.

**“It feels like an incredible gift, to enable children’s wishes to be granted in years to come.”**

Ali  
~~Make-A-Wish~~legator  
Wish Maker

“One of my foster children was in remission from leukaemia. Two volunteers visited us to discuss his wish and seeing the impression it left on him was wonderful.

“When we bought a house, we decided to write a Will. I 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 a percentage of our house to the charity in my Will.

“To me, Make-A-Wish is about seeing a child’s smile when you say, ‘What do you wish for?’... it just lights up the room.”



Isla  
5 years old  
Kidney cancer

★  
**Youtuber**  
★  
★

## More than just a magical day

Having a wish come true can have an incredible and long-lasting effect on seriously ill children. Dr Larissa is a paediatric doctor who has seen first-hand the difference a wish can make – to both a child and their family.

“Wishes can have a very beneficial impact on a child’s mental health, and it gives their family psychological resources to be able to deal with difficult times.

“Many children don’t even realise how brave they are, and how much they have been coping with. They’ve been through more than most people do in a lifetime. Their wish is a recognition of all of that, and it gives them even more resilience.

“I’m delighted that Make-A-Wish is there for these very brave and inspirational children.”



**“Telling a child that I would like to refer them for a magical wish, because I think they have been so courageous, is always wonderful!”**

Dr Larissa  
Paediatric doctor  
Wish Maker

If you’d like to know more about leaving a little magic in your Will, just email [legacies@makeawish.org.uk](mailto:legacies@makeawish.org.uk)

## How the magic is made

Every wish is unique and entirely based on the imagination and true desires of each child. Together, our team of trained Wish Makers, the child and their family will plan and organise every detail. We call it the Wish Journey.



### 1 Wish Referral

Once a child is referred to us, a carefully planned journey begins to complement medical treatment, and create strength and joy.

### 2 Wish Capture

A child puts all the things that are most important to them into a Wish Box, which they share with our volunteers to create a dream wish.

### 3 Wish Design

Once we have the wish, our magical Wish Making team gets to work designing a way to turn it into a reality, with help from friends and family.



### 4 Wish Anticipation

Suddenly, life becomes about planning a magical wish, not just about an illness. This helps build resilience and confidence.

### 5 Wish Realisation

After weeks of hard work – and fun – it's time for the big day! Everyone has a part to play, and dreams really do come true.

### 6 Wish Effect

This life-changing experience will create memories that will last forever. If this is possible, surely anything is...

**With a gift in your Will, you can play your part in our Wish Making team and help change the future for more children.**



**Amber**  
12 years old  
~~Batten disease~~

**Princess**

**“When everything else is  
taken away, we will still  
have these memories.”**

Chantelle, Amber’s mum

## Three good reasons to make your will

We know it’s easy to put off making your Will, but it’s one of the most meaningful documents you’ll ever write. Once it’s done you can relax, knowing that you’ve ticked three very important boxes:

### **1** Your wishes your way

When you make a Will, you’re deciding exactly how you want your estate, and things that are precious to you, to be taken care of. If you don’t have a Will, the law will decide how to pass things on – and the people you care about might not be included.

### **2** Help for your family at a difficult time

Having a valid, up-to-date Will is an important way of helping your loved ones deal with your estate. It means they’ll know exactly what your intentions are and be reassured they’re carrying out your wishes.

### **3** Reducing inheritance tax

If you include a gift to a charity in your Will, it 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](http://gov.uk/inheritance-tax) or we recommend you talk to a solicitor for more information.

Micaela  
11 years old  
Congenital Heart Defect

# ★ Top chef ★



**“Micaela’s very aware of how different she is. On her wish day, she wasn’t a poorly child, she was a chef.”**

Melanie, Micaela’s mum

Micaela loves cooking – it’s a great distraction from thinking about the heart condition she’s lived with every day of her life. She had open-heart surgery when she was just two days old, and may need a heart transplant when she’s older. But for one day, all that disappeared and Micaela was head chef at a top London hotel!

On the week of her wish, Micaela and her family travelled to The Reubens Hotel on Buckingham Palace Road where they were treated like royalty by the staff. Then she put on her whites and made lunch for everyone in a real professional kitchen – and even iced some cupcakes to take home.

# Leaving a little magic in your Will: your next steps



## Writing or updating your Will

Your Will is one of the most important documents to have. It tells everyone what you'd like to happen to your money, your property and your possessions. And it's your chance to make a lasting statement about what matters to you most.

It's always best to use a solicitor or Will-writing service, to make sure your Will is legal and valid.

And remember, you should review your Will every five years, particularly after a big life event like moving home, a new grandchild or a marriage.

## Choose the type of gift you want to leave

There are three main ways you can leave a gift – whether it's to friends and family or to Make-A-Wish:



A residuary gift is a percentage of the remainder of your estate once expenses like debts and taxes have been paid. For example, you could decide to leave 10% of your residue to charity.



A pecuniary gift is a fixed amount specified by you in your Will. For example, you could leave £1,000 to Make-A-Wish. Remember that inflation can affect the value of a cash gift over time.



A specific gift is a named item, such as a car or a piece of jewellery.



**“No child should be defined by their illness or condition. With your help thousands more children can have the chance to experience the joy and wonder of childhood and to create precious new memories.”**

Jason Suckley, Chief Executive



## Bringing extra magic into your Will

If you decide to leave a gift to Make-A-Wish, you can let us know what kinds of wishes you'd like to support. For example, wishes that include travel, or wishes for children living in your local community.



Your solicitor can help you decide how to include us in your Will – we suggest you use one of the following instructions depending on the type of gift:

I give  % share of the residue of my real or personal estate  
OR

I give the sum of £  (insert fixed amount in numbers or 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 SC037479 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.

### Share your very special wish

You don't have to let us know if you choose to leave a gift to us, we understand it's a private decision. But we'd love to be able to say thank you – and knowing you've pledged a gift is a huge help when we're planning for the future.

If you would like to let us know, you can get in touch at [legacies@makeawish.org.uk](mailto:legacies@makeawish.org.uk)



Thank you.

We've partnered with Will-writing service Farewill to help you write your Will for free. Go to [farewill.com/wish-web](https://farewill.com/wish-web) to get started today

# Help with planning your Will

**Making sure all your wishes are clear in your Will is something your solicitor can help with. But before you speak to a solicitor, it also helps to note down a few details so you're ready for the conversation. Here are some headings that may help you write your list:**

## Beneficiaries

These are the people who will be named in your Will to receive gifts from your estate – family, friends and charities.

---

---

---

---

## Assets

This is a list of all the things you own, the things you'd like to leave behind for your beneficiaries. Make your own general headings, and try to estimate a value for each – your solicitor will be able to help with this.

- Your home and other property
- Possessions, such as a car, furniture, jewellery and other precious or sentimental items
- Money, including bank accounts, savings, life insurance, pensions and investments

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## How you'd like to split your assets

It's important to think about whether there are any specific gifts you'd like to make to certain people, organisations or charities. And what will happen to the remainder of your estate once these gifts and expenses have been paid?

---

---

---

---

---

## Executors

These are the people you'd like to carry out the instructions in your Will – you can choose up to four executors, but it's recommended you have at least two in case one is unable to act for some reason. They should be people you trust, and they must be over 18.

---

---

---

---

## Other notes

You might want to include your wishes for your funeral arrangements in your Will. Or, if you have young children, details about who will care for them in the event of your death. Take all this information along to your Will-writing session so nothing is missed and you can have complete peace of mind.

---

---

---

---

Sophia  
5 years old  
Heart transplant

# ★ Chocôlatier ★



**Thank you for considering Make-A-Wish as part of your legacy. If you have any further questions please contact one of our friendly, expert team:**

## Telephone

Call us: 01276 40 50 60

## Email

[legacies@makeawish.org.uk](mailto:legacies@makeawish.org.uk)

## Online

[www.make-a-wish.org.uk](http://www.make-a-wish.org.uk)

## Post

Make-A-Wish UK  
Seventh Floor, Thames Tower  
Station Road, Reading  
RG1 1LX

**Make-A-Wish**  
UNITED KINGDOM

Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**