



THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPICE

Your Guide to Making a Will

What is a will?

A will is a legally binding document which tells everyone what should happen to your money, possessions and property – collectively called your 'estate' – after you die. A will can also let others know your funeral wishes.

Why do I need a will?

Making a will is one of those things that many people put off. However, a will can be an important way to protect your family and loved ones. It can save on inheritance tax and head off family disputes about how your possessions should be divided.

Leaving a gift to The Prince of Wales Hospice

Many people include a charitable gift in their will. This is often referred to as a lasting legacy. Leaving a gift in your will to The Prince of Wales Hospice will help us ensure that our wonderful care is available for all who need it in the future. Once you have taken care of your loved ones, a gift left to the Hospice will mean that patients with a life limiting illness can live well and die well, knowing that their loved ones are supported. You don't need to tell us if you have left a gift in your will, but we'd love to be able to thank you during your lifetime for your legacy.

How to make your will

It's usually best to get advice from a solicitor, and we can provide you with a list of local solicitors who would be happy to help. Some of these solicitors also take part in our Make a Will Month when they will write your will for free in exchange for a donation to the Hospice. Our Make a Will Month usually takes place in January each year.

You can also write your will online, and we are happy to work with Guardian Angel to provide your will FREE (*RRP £90.00) with a unique discount code. Online wills are checked by professionals, and are made by answering some simple questions. This usually takes around 15 minutes.

Your estate

You'll need to have an idea of what your estate of worth. You can do this by making a list of your assets and debts. Assets include things like your house, savings, motor vehicles and jewellery. Debts include mortgages, credit cards and loans.

Your beneficiaries

Next, you need to decide how you want to divide your estate. Think about who you want to benefit, and whether you want to give any specific gifts to particular people. Decide where you want the residue of the estate to go. Residue is any property or money left over after paying funeral and administrative expenses, legacies and taxes). You should also think about what you want to happen if any of your beneficiaries should die before you.

Donation to charity

You may decide to leave a donation to one or more charities. You will need the charity's full name, address and registered charity number. Incorrect information may mean your chosen charity doesn't receive the gift. Should you decide to leave a gift to The Prince of Wales Hospice in your will, our details are:

The Five Towns Plus Hospice Fund Ltd
Halfpenny Lane
Pontefract
West Yorkshire
WF8 4BG

Registered Charity Number 514999

Executors

You will need to choose an executor for your will. Being an executor can involve a lot of work and responsibility, so be careful who you choose. Executors can be family members or friends, and they can also benefit from your will. If you don't have anyone suitable, you can appoint a professional executor such as a solicitor or an accountant, but they will charge you for this service. It's a good idea to choose two executors so they can share the responsibilities and in case one of them dies before you. You can have up to four executors.

Signing and witnessing your will

You must sign your will in the presence of two independent witnesses, who must also sign it in your presence – so all three people should be in the room together when each one signs. If the will is signed incorrectly, it is not valid. Beneficiaries of the will, their spouses or civil partners should not act as witnesses, or they lose their right to the inheritance. Beneficiaries shouldn't even be present in the room when the will is signed. It's also best not to ask an executor to act as a witness.

Storing your will

Leave your will with a solicitor, bank, safely stored at home or with the Probate Service. You can find your local Probate Service through the gov.uk website. You must let your executors know where your will is kept. Don't attach any documents to the will with paperclips or staples – if they detach and leave marks it will raise questions about whether the will is missing any parts or amendments.

For more information on writing your will or leaving a gift to the Hospice in your will, contact our dedicated fundraiser Anne, on 01977 781488 / 07825 357851 or email wills@pwh.org.uk