

A Guide to making your Will

Leaving a gift in your will to Tree of Hope



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HOPE

*The fundraising charity supporting
children's healthcare needs*

Where do I start?



We strongly recommend that you consult a solicitor when you make your will, in order to ensure it accurately reflects your wishes. Your will needs to be prepared professionally as it is a legal document. Consulting a solicitor about your will won't cost as much as you might think. See page 6 for details on how to find a solicitor.



Why do I need to make a will?



Making a will is the only way to make sure that your loved ones are provided for as you intended after you have passed away. If you don't have a valid will, the courts will have to administer your affairs after you die. This can cause delays and anxiety for friends and family, and your affairs may not be handled as you would like. Whether you are writing your will for the first time or updating an existing one, this guide sets out the practical steps you need to take. The good news is that making a will is easy to do. Providing a gift in your will to Tree of Hope gives children in UK the chance of a better future.



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Preparing your will

Before you see a solicitor, there are a number of things you need to consider:

Guardians for your children

If you have children who are under 18, you will need to choose and ask a person to act as their guardian. If not the courts will have to appoint one.



Estimate the value of what you own and what you owe

You will need to find out the approximate value of your 'estate' (everything you own, minus what you owe) by making a list of your assets and liabilities. Your assets may include property, investments and other personal items. Your liabilities will be anything you owe, such as bank loans or credit cards.

Insurance policies, death in service benefits and pension schemes

may fall outside the terms of your will and the beneficiaries of these may need to be specified within these documents themselves. Please check with the providers.



It's worth checking the latest inheritance tax guidelines <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk> to see if your estate could be subject to tax.

Choose your executors

You will need to appoint executors (who could also be beneficiaries) to carry out the instructions in your will. You can appoint just one executor, but we recommend two or more (up to four people) in order to ensure your instructions are carried out as wished. These could be family, freinds or a solicitor



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A gift for children

Your will as well as recognising the importance of family and friends also provides an opportunity to remember other things that are important to you, like a favourite charity. Leaving a small percentage of your estate to support our work with children rather than a set amount of money (a 'residuary' gift rather than a 'pecuniary' gift) has the benefit of being inflationproof and means you're less likely to need to update your will in the future. Any gifts to charity are exempt from inheritance tax. Leaving a gift to a charity could significantly reduce the burden of inheritance tax on loved ones.

If you wish to remember Tree of Hope in your will, we recommend that you use the following wording:

"I leave.....
to The Tree of Hope of 43a Little Mount Sion, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1YP, registered charity numbers 1149254 and SC042611."



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Contacting a solicitor

Finding a solicitor

As mentioned earlier, we recommend you consult a solicitor before making or changing your will. Please note that the law on making wills varies between the different areas of the UK.

England and Wales

www.lawsociety.org.uk
Tel 0870 6062555

Scotland

www.lawscot.org.uk
Tel 0131 2267411

Northern Ireland

www.lawsoc-ni.org



Visiting a solicitor

Before visiting a solicitor, check which documents you need to take. Once you have drawn up your will, keep it safe by leaving the original with your solicitor or bank and keeping a copy at home for your reference. Make sure your executors or family know your preferences for funeral arrangements and any other requests.

Under what circumstances would I need to change my will?

You may wish to change your will if you get married, have children, if you get divorced, or in the event of the arrival of grandchildren. When changing your will it isn't always necessary to change the entire document. You can update your will easily using a document called a codicil.



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Helping children



Tree of Hope's promise

If you decide to leave a gift in your will to Tree of Hope, you can be sure it will be used effectively to save and improve children's lives. We receive all gifts with sensitivity and efficiency, making sure costs are kept to an absolute minimum.

If you or the executors of your will would like to be involved in deciding how the money left to Tree of Hope is spent, we would be more than happy to help. Please call us on 01892 535525 to discuss your wishes.

For further information about Tree of Hope's work please visit www.treeofhope.org.uk

Thank you for considering leaving a gift in your will to Tree of Hope. You can make a huge difference to the lives of UK children.



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How can you help? ★

- Send a donation
- Ask your employer to make us their 'charity of the year'
- Leave a legacy in your will
- Organise your own fundraising event
- Be involved in a charity challenge



Tree of Hope

Tel: 01892 535525

www.treeofhope.org.uk

www.facebook.com/treeofhopecc

Twitter: treeofhopecc

Skype: tree.hope

Text TREE01 £10 to 70070 to donate
and make a difference today



Tree of Hope is registered in England and Wales as a charitable company limited by guarantee
Company No 8184807, Charity No 1149254 and registered as a charity in Scotland No SCO42611
Registered Office: 43A Little Mount Sion, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1YP



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