

# A guide to making or changing your Will

Making a Will is your opportunity to let your family, friends and favourite charities know how much you care for them. More importantly, it allows you to be in control of exactly what happens to all your possessions when you have gone.

It is vital that you make a Will and keep it updated because if you die without a valid Will (intestate) the intestacy rules apply. Under these rules only certain people, such as blood relations or a legal husband or wife, can benefit.

So you see it really is important that you decide today what you would like to happen to your possessions in the future.



## A message from our Founder



Dear Friend

I know how important it is to have an up-to-date Will. I'm now into my retirement years and realise that I need to take the opportunity to decide for myself how my money and possessions are distributed when I am no longer here. It's very important to me that my friends and family are looked after – but I also want to make sure I can leave something to CHILDREN with CANCER UK.

I hope you find CHILDREN with CANCER UK's guide to making or changing your Will useful. We've tried to set out clearly the steps you need to go through when drawing up a Will and provide answers to the questions you may have.

If you would like any further help then please do get in touch with us on 020 7404 0808 or e-mail [legacies@childrenwithcancer.org.uk](mailto:legacies@childrenwithcancer.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

Eddie O'Gorman  
Chairman of Trustees

## Why CHILDREN with CANCER UK?

The chance of a child surviving cancer is now greater than ever. Over the last 50 years survival has gone from next to nothing to the point today where three out of four affected children will pull through.

But it is still a major killer – even in the last five years it has claimed the lives of more children than any other disease in the UK. And although the number of deaths is going down, the number of cases is rising year on year and we don't know why.

Since I started CHILDREN with CANCER UK in 1988 we have done all we can to get the survival rate to today's level and we won't let up until there is a successful treatment available for every child diagnosed with this dreadful disease. We simply couldn't have got as far as we have without the support of our friends. A gift to CHILDREN with CANCER UK in your Will could be instrumental in helping us to save even more young lives.

## How can I make my Will?

A Will is a legal document and must comply with legal formalities. For this reason we recommend that you ask a solicitor to draw up your Will for you. The cost will vary depending on the complexity of your Will, but if your requirements are simple, you can expect to pay around £60 for a single Will and £100 for a couple.

To find a solicitor look in your local telephone directory, or better still ask your friends if they have a recommendation.

# CHILDREN with CANCER UK

Registered Charity No. 298405. Formerly CHILDREN with LEUKAEMIA UK. Inaugurated in 1988 by Diana, Princess of Wales



## What should I do before I visit the solicitor?

You can minimise the cost of your Will by being prepared before you see your chosen solicitor. Make a list of your assets – all those things that you have to leave in your Will. For example these could include any property, investments, cash or specific pieces of jewellery. Also make a list of any debts you may have – such as your mortgage or any loans. This information will help your solicitor see how much you have left to leave to your family, friends and charities – what is left comprises your "estate."

Make sure your solicitor knows where all the documentation relating to your assets and debts is stored so that it can be easily accessed.

If you have young children it is also important to consider who you would wish to be their guardians in the event of your death.

## How long will it take to make my Will?

It generally takes two visits to your solicitor to make your Will; one to discuss your wishes and a follow up visit to check over the Will and sign it.

## Who will benefit in my Will?

It is important that you supply the full names and addresses of all those you wish to benefit from your Will. For example, you may wish to make specific gifts of cash or objects such as furniture to friends or family. What is left over after any specific gifts comprises the residue of your estate. Again you can leave this residue – or parts of it – to friends and family.

If you feel able to, you can also consider leaving a gift to CHILDREN with CANCER UK. Often during your lifetime the costs of bringing up a family, or the increasing costs of retirement mean that it can be difficult to support your favourite causes. When you make your Will you have the opportunity to make a gift that will really make a difference to the future of leukaemic children.

## What are the tax benefits of giving to a registered charity?

Tax is a complex subject, and one that your solicitor will be able to advise you on fully. However, gifts left to a registered charity are generally exempt from inheritance tax. When part of your estate is given to friends and family and part to a registered charity then the liability to inheritance tax may be reduced.

**If you are able to remember CHILDREN with CANCER UK in your Will we would be so grateful. Your gift will help us in our goal to conquer this deadly disease once and for all.**

We would really appreciate knowing that you have decided to leave us a Gift so that we can thank you properly in your life time.

If you do feel able to help, please would you fill in and return this form under NO OBLIGATION.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Yes I have decided to leave a gift in my Will to CHILDREN with CANCER UK – tick box

I have decided to leave a specific legacy of £..... (amount or item).  
 I have decided to leave a residual legacy of .....% of my estate.

**Thank you**

