

I already have a will, can I add anything to it to leave a gift to your charity?

Yes. A 'codicil' is a legally binding document which is used to make small changes to an existing will. Again it is best to instruct a solicitor to prepare and advise upon its contents and then (most importantly) properly execute the document.

"I am so happy to know that after I am gone, as well as helping my own family I can change lives of generations to come. That I am proud to say is my legacy."

Practical Action Supporter

How long does all this take?

Ordinarily you would usually spend around an hour with a solicitor explaining your wishes and preferences. A draft will will be sent for your approval in the post. Once approved you will be sent a copy of the final document for signature before appropriate witnesses. The process should take no longer than 10-14 days, but can be shorter.

Do I need to tell you that I have left you a gift in my will?

No, but it really does help us to plan ahead for the future and gives us an opportunity to thank you for your wonderful gesture.

How will you use my Legacy gift?

Any gift left to us in a will which is not subject to any restrictions regarding its specific use, will be allocated to our work and will allow us to use your gift wherever the need is greatest.

"My father's work has continued long after he passed away. By leaving a legacy to Practical Action, yours can too."

Nicola Schumacher



What happens if I change my mind?

If you change your mind, the most common means of revoking a will is to simply write and execute a new will that specifically revokes all previous wills. It is also possible to revoke certain sections of the will. In these circumstances it is advised that you seek legal advice on your available options.

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Inspiring Action
Legacy frequently asked questions

Leave a gift in your will and make a difference to the lives of future generations

Why make a will?

Making a will provides you, your family and loved ones with certainty and peace of mind, knowing your estate will be distributed in accordance with your wishes. It also avoids disputes regarding entitlement to your assets.

Where the will includes a gift to a qualifying charity it can also lead to tax advantages.

Individual circumstances are different so please seek independent advice on the nature and extent of tax advantages available to you.



“I don't know what the future holds but knowing I can support projects with a legacy means I can make a difference.”

Practical Action Supporter

I want to provide for my family first.

We wouldn't want it any other way. We would encourage everyone to write a will to ensure that their loved ones are provided for, we would never seek to take priority over family. It is possible to provide for your family while also leaving a gift to your chosen charity.

Do I need to use a solicitor?

Wills are a legally binding document. To be a legally binding will it has to comply with existing statutes and common law. A solicitor is trained to advise people and ensure compliance. It is possible to prepare a legally binding will yourself but given the potential pitfalls it is often not advisable to do so. If a will is deemed not legally valid, your assets will be distributed by rules governed by UK law.

What types of gift can I leave in my will and which would the charity benefit most from?

There are essentially three different types of gifts in wills:

- **Pecuniary gifts** – these are gifts leaving a particular amount of money.
- **Residuary gifts** – these are gifts leaving a certain proportion of your net estate (after family have been provided for and following the deduction of estate costs, taxes and pecuniary gifts). Many supporters choose to leave a residuary gift as they do not lose value in the time between the writing of the will and the death of the will writer.
- **Specific gifts** – a gift of a certain item of property.

At Practical Action we welcome every type of gift. Every gift makes a difference.



“I would like to think that my legacy and legacies that other people make would go to supporting this important organisation far into the future.”

Practical Action Supporter

Is it expensive to make a will?

A will typically costs around £100 for a single will, or £150 for two mirror wills (where a couple's wills mirror each other in so far as they make similar provision for the surviving partner after death).

*As of October 2016