

INCLUDE THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME IN YOUR WILL



your local
air ambulance

Derbyshire · Leicestershire · Rutland

Warwickshire · Northamptonshire

GIFTS IN WILLS GUIDE

Thank You

Thank you for requesting our free Gifts in Wills Guide. We know that Wills can be complicated so we have provided useful information about including a gift in your Will, as well as information about the profound impact that legacies have on our charity.

Your Will is one of the most important documents you'll ever write. A professionally written Will, kept up to date, is the only way to make sure that your wishes will be carried out when you're no longer here. Without which, the state decides what happens to your assets. So making a Will is not only peace of mind for you, but also for your family and friends, who will be safe in the knowledge that everything is happening just as you wished.

Your Will is also an opportunity to remember causes that you care about. We understand that providing and caring for your friends and family comes first. After you've made sure of that, we are asking you to consider including a gift to our charity.

As a charity who receives no government funding, we rely on the kind donations of our supporters – and 1 in 7 of our missions are funded by gifts in Wills. Gifts in Wills have a profound impact on our charity, and you can be rest assured that your generous gift will go towards saving lives of those in their greatest hour of need.

33 *We want children to grow into adults, we want adults to live longer, and we want bereavement through trauma to become rare.* Will you help us achieve that future? **33**

Warmest wishes,

The Air Ambulance Service



YOUR LEGACY..

Elizabeth Dearden will never forget the evening when she was told her son Luke, then aged 20, had been seriously injured when his car crashed into a tree after skidding on a muddy country lane. It took the Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Rutland Air Ambulance just 13 minutes to fly Luke to the nearest major trauma hospital in Coventry where he was treated.

Forever grateful for the difference the helicopter flight made to Luke's recovery and his ability to continue his medical degree and go on to be a doctor, Elizabeth has left a legacy to



ELIZABETH DEARDEN

The Air Ambulance Service in her Will.

“If you can do something worthwhile that really makes a difference then please consider supporting the local air ambulance charity by leaving a gift in your Will. The service it provides is so vital and when you have used it, you really appreciate that it can make the difference between life and death.”

IAN'S STORY

It was snowing and the roads were slippery when keen cyclist Ian Lewis and eight fellow members of his cycling group set off on a 100km ride.

“The weather was horrendous but, because it was an organised event with 500 entries and all profits going to charity, we decided to go ahead despite it being so cold and the conditions so bad,” he explains.

But it was a decision that Ian was to later regret after his bike slid from under him on a tight right hand bend and he went crashing to the ground.

It took Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance just nine minutes to fly Ian from the

scene of the accident to University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire.

A combination of hazardous driving conditions and the remote location meant that the helicopter was the safest and quickest form of transport to get him to the specialist trauma care he needed.

“The care I got from the air ambulance crew was superb. They arrived quite soon after the accident happened and got me to hospital very quickly. They provide a fantastic service which is funded by donations and fundraising when, I think, most people would expect it to be paid for from our taxes,” he says.



IS THEIR FUTURE +

IAN SAYS: I'm sure that the air ambulance's attendance on that morning and its ability to get me to A&E so soon after the accident were paramount to my speedy recovery. Without it – bearing in mind the cold conditions – my situation could have been a whole lot worse and may have even meant the end of my cycling for good.



“THE CARE I GOT FROM THE AIR AMBULANCE CREW WAS SUPERB.”

COSTS INVOLVED

It's a common misunderstanding that including a gift to a charity in a Will is something that only the rich and famous do. In fact, we receive gifts of all sizes from people of all walks of life. A gift of any size can make a huge difference.

HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOUR GIFT COULD HELP...



£600

Could help pay for powered respirator units that help protect our crews



£799

Could pay for a scoop stretcher which splits in two to facilitate lifting patients from the ground with minimal movement involved



£2,300

Could pay for one lifesaving mission



£100k

Could provide two operating bases for our pilots and a hanger to store the aircraft safely for one year



£120k

Could keep one helicopter in fuel for a year

WHY IS A WILL IMPORTANT?

Your Will is one of the most important documents you'll ever write, yet only half of UK adults have a Will. Without a properly drawn-up Will, you will be declared 'intestate'. This means that the Government will step in and decide what happens to your estate and any of your wishes will not be fulfilled.

Putting your affairs in order with a Will should simplify the legal process for your loved ones at what will be a very difficult time. Therefore, having a Will is important not only to you, but to your family and friends – ensuring your loved ones and your final wishes are respected. You can determine who you would like to benefit from your money, possessions, and property. If you have any dependents, you can name a guardian to make sure their future is safe and secure. You can set out any specific funeral arrangements.

Most people have more than they think. Did you know that copyrights, loyalty points, pets, photo albums, cryptocurrency and much more can be included in a Will.

Your Will is also an opportunity to remember causes that mean something special to you, such as The Air Ambulance Service. We understand that providing and caring for your friends and family comes first. After you've made sure of that, we are asking you to consider including a gift to our charity. The Air Ambulance Service depends on this type of gift. Gifts in Wills are responsible for 1 in 7 of our life saving missions.

Including a gift in your Will is also a great way to support The Air Ambulance Service if you are unable to support us now as it won't cost you anything right now.



1 in 7 of our missions are funded by **gifts in wills.**

HOW TO REMEMBER THE AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE IN YOUR WILL

+ STEP 1: Talk to a solicitor

If you don't already have a Will it is recommended that you get professional advice from a solicitor to ensure your Will is legal, and exactly how you want it. Of course, if you already have a Will it's important to keep it up to date. This includes when you purchase property, get married, have children or receive a large sum of money such as an inheritance. If you need to make major changes in your Will, you should speak to a solicitor who can amend it for you. (see page 14 to find out more)

+ STEP 2: Decide who will benefit

Before you meet with a solicitor consider what you wish to leave to your family, friends and the charities you support. Make a list of what you own and what you owe. This will help you work out the true size of your estate, and what you could leave to friends, family and causes close to your heart.

+ STEP 3: Decide how you want to remember The Air Ambulance Service

Your solicitor will ask you what type of gift you would like to include and the amount, or the specific details.

+ STEP 4: Our details

Your solicitor will ask you for our details:

Charity: The Air Ambulance Service

Registered charity number: 1098874

Address: The Air Ambulance Service, Blue Skies House, Butlers Leap, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 3RQ.

+ STEP 5: Executors and witnesses

Your solicitor will ask for details of executors of your Will. Often, people will choose their solicitor or a family member to carry out the terms of their Will, to ensure their wishes are fulfilled. Naming them as executors does not stop them benefiting from your Will. When the Will has then been drawn up, you will need two independent people, who do not benefit from your Will, to witness your signature.

+ STEP 6: Thank You

Finally, we would love to be able to thank you for your generous gift. If you would be happy to do so, please let us know you have included a gift in your Will to The Air Ambulance Service (see page 15).

TYPES OF GIFTS

What types of gift can you include in your Will?

A RESIDUARY GIFT

A residuary gift is a percentage or share of your estate once all other payments and gifts have been made. This type of gift is popular as it keeps in line with inflation and remains proportional to the value of the estate. A residual gift is also a good option if you are unsure what your financial situation will be, as it's the percentage of what you can afford at the time of your passing.

A PECUNIARY GIFT

A pecuniary gift is a fixed, specific sum of money. This can be as large or small as you like. It is worth noting that over time the value could decrease with inflation. If you do choose a pecuniary gift, you may wish to review your Will from time-to-time to ensure it still reflects your intentions.

A SPECIFIC GIFT

A specific gift is a specific item or asset, such as jewellery, furniture, a car, or shares.

A GIFT AFTER A LOVED ONE PASSES

This type of gift allows you to leave assets to a loved one for the duration of their life. When they pass, this gift can then be passed on to your chosen charity.



USEFUL INFORMATION

KEEP YOUR WILL SAFE

Make a copy of your Will for future reference and keep the original with your solicitor. You can also register your Will with the National Will Register, for a small fee. See www.nationalwillregister.co.uk for further details.

FINDING A SOLICITOR

There is no law to say you need to use a solicitor, however, your Will is a legal document and it is important that the correct legal language is used. Sorting out mistakes made in a DIY Will could cost your family later, in both time and money. To find a local solicitor, contact the Law Society of England and Wales at solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk or call them on 020 7320 5650. Before you see your solicitor, you may wish to complete our checklist at the back of this booklet and take it with you to your appointment. The cost of your Will depends on how complicated it is and where you live. Ask your solicitor to make the cost clear at the start.

INHERITANCE TAX

It is good to know that when you include a gift in your Will to a registered charity, the gift is exempt from Inheritance Tax (IHT) and if your estate is more than the tax threshold, a gift can reduce the overall tax liability to your estate. The amount of the gift will be taken from your estate before any tax liability is worked out. Also, if you leave 10% or more of your estate to charity, this can reduce the rate of IHT from 40% to 36% on some assets. Please note that this information is no substitute for professional advice and IHT rates can change. Some assets may be exempt. Talk to your chosen solicitor to discuss in more detail. For more information about IHT go to www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax

YOUR CONTACT AT THE AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE

If you would like to know more about gifts in Wills, or have any questions, please contact us on 0300 3045 999 or at legacies@theairambulance.org.uk



OUR PROMISE TO YOU

Your gift, no matter how large or small, will be handled with the utmost respect. Whatever your wishes, we will always be professional, sensitive, honest, and ethical in our practice.

We know that for your family and friends it will be a difficult time. You can be confident that your loved ones will be treated with care and compassion throughout the legacy management process.

We know that it's your decision and we do not want you to feel pressured in any way. You should feel nothing but joy in giving such a precious gift.

We respect your privacy and understand that writing a Will is a private matter. If you let us know, we will keep your wishes confidential.

We are here for you if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the service you are supporting. Should you let us know your intentions we'd like to thank you and make sure you have no unanswered questions.

And of course, we understand that circumstances change, and you may change your mind. Letting us know your intentions is in no way binding.

**“ OUR PROMISE TO YOU IS TO
TAKE CARE OF YOUR WISHES,
FULFILLING YOUR LEGACY. ”**



BECOME A HERO FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

We realise that your Will is a personal document, but if you have included, or intend to include **The Air Ambulance Service**, we would welcome you to let us know.

Our pledgers mean so much to us, and as long as you're happy to hear from us, we would like the opportunity to show our appreciation by **personally thanking you**. As well as keeping you informed on the latest updates from the charity and the work your gift can help fund.

By getting in touch, **you are not committing to anything** and are under no obligation. You can change your mind at any time. You can also withdraw from our communications at any time.

THERE ARE A FEW WAYS TO GET IN TOUCH.

Pledge Form

Opposite is a pledge form that you can complete and send back to us at The Air Ambulance Service, Blue Skies House, Butlers Leap, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 3RQ.

Phone

Call our legacy team on 0300 3045 999. Our office is open Monday to Friday from 9am – 5pm.

Email

Email legacies@theairambulanceservice.org.uk

Thank you for considering giving the gift of a lifetime in your Will.

LET'S SAVE LIVES

TOGETHER+

 **YES I WANT TO HELP SAVE LIVES WITH A GIFT IN MY WILL.**

If you have decided to leave a gift in your Will to The Air Ambulance Service, we'd love for you to tell us so that we can say thank you.

Please tick the relevant boxes below

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- I have already left a gift to The Air Ambulance Service in my will share of my estate cash gift
- I intend to leave a gift to The Air Ambulance Service in my Will share of my estate cash gift
- Please give my details to the National Free Wills Network so they can send me an information pack
- Please do not contact me again about gifts in Wills



Please return this form to:

The Air Ambulance Service, Blue Skies House, Butlers Leap, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 3RQ

The Air Ambulance Service would like to keep you up to date on our work, campaigns, fundraising activities, events, volunteering opportunities and products and services. Please tick if you are happy for us to do so by: E-mail Phone Text message . If you already hear from us we will continue to contact you in the same ways. You can opt-out or change your communication preferences at any time by contacting our supporter help desk on 0300 3045 999 or at legacies@theairambulanceservice.org.uk. We will never sell or swap details for marketing purposes.

YOUR CONTACT AT THE AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE

For further information about our work please contact

 0300 3045 999 or at  legacies@theairambulanceservice.org.uk



ASSET CHECKLIST

It is important when you make or change your Will to have a clear idea of what your estate is worth.

To make the most of your visit to your solicitor, you can make a note of your assets, beneficiaries and executors on our Will Planner and take it along with you.

THIS CHECKLIST WILL HELP YOU WITH THIS PROCESS.



ADD UP WHAT YOU OWN (Current Value)

Possessions	
Home	£
Furniture	£
Other home contents	£
Car	£
Jewellery, paintings, antiques	£
Financial Assets	
Usual amount in current accounts	£
Amount in saving accounts	£
Personal life assurance (sum assured)	£
Stocks, shares and bonds	£
Any debts owed to you	£
Other insurance policies	£
Pension plan	£
TOTAL ASSETS	£
Deduct What You Owe	
Mortgage outstanding	£
Loans outstanding	£
Overdrafts outstanding	£
Credit card debts	£
Hire purchase still to repay	£
Other debts	£
TOTAL DEBTS AND LIABILITIES	£
Total Net Value Of Your Estate	
(Total of assets, less total of debts and liabilities)	£

NATIONAL FREE WILLS NETWORK

Writing a Will need not be complicated, nor expensive, especially with our partnership with the National Free Wills Network.

Through our scheme, the National Free Wills Network can write or amend a Will at no cost to our supporters, and The Air Ambulance Service will pay a discounted rate. Our partnership with the Network ensures that our supporters' estates will be dealt with as they intended.

Whilst there is no obligation to do so, we hope that you might consider including a gift to The Air Ambulance Service in your Will to help us continue to be there for people in their greatest hour of need in the future. Including a gift to The Air Ambulance Service in your Will - however big or small - will make a huge difference to our service.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR MY FREE WILL?

If you are interested in finding out more, please follow the below three easy steps.



CONTACT US

Contact us with your name and address and remember to reference "National Free Wills Network".
legacies@theairambulanceservice.org.uk
0300 3045 999



YOUR DETAILS

Your details will be passed onto the Network, who will send you a pack that includes a list of nearby participating solicitors.



WRITE YOUR WILL

Write your will with your chosen solicitor, in the usual way. Your solicitor will ask you to complete a form to enable you to participate in the scheme.

UNDERSTANDING LEGAL JARGON

ADMINISTRATOR

Someone who is legally appointed to manage your affairs if you die without a Will.

BENEFICIARY

A person, charity or organisation who receives something from your Will.

BEQUEST (LEGACY)

A gift left in a Will. It can be:

- Residuary: remainder of your estate after other gifts and payments have been made
- Pecuniary: a fixed sum of money
- Specific: a particular, named item

CODICIL

A separate document that makes a change or addition to your existing Will. A written amendment to someone's Will, saving the need to re-write the whole document. It should be signed, dated and witnessed with the same legal formalities as a Will.

ESTATE

The total value of everything you own at the time of your death.

EXECUTOR

The person or people you choose to carry out the instructions in your Will. This could be a relative, friend or your solicitor.

GUARDIANS

The people you choose to look after your children should you die.

INTESTATE

The name given to someone who dies without having made a Will.

INHERITANCE TAX

Inheritance tax is paid if a person's estate (their property, money and possessions) is worth more than £325,000 when they die. This is called the 'inheritance tax threshold'. The rate of inheritance tax is 40 percent on anything above the threshold. The rate may be reduced to 36 percent if 10 percent or more of the estate is left to charity. Some assets may be exempt.

Find out more at

www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax

LEGACY

This is another term to describe a gift in your Will.

PROBATE

The legal process that establishes if your Will is valid. If it isn't valid, an administrator is called in.

RESIDUE

What is left of your estate, after all gifts, debts, taxes and expenses have been paid.

TESTATOR/TESTATRIX

The name given to the person making the Will.

TRUST/EE

A trust is a way of managing assets, such as money, investments, land or buildings. The trustee is the person who manages the trust.

WITNESS

A person who acts as a witness when you sign your Will. They cannot benefit from your Will.



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WHAT WE DO WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT PEOPLE LIKE YOU

Thank you for taking the time to read our Gifts in Wills Guide, and for considering The Air Ambulance Service in your Will. We hope you have a deeper understanding of what leaving a legacy to our charity will involve, and the impact your donation will make.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION OR HAVE ANY QUERIES,
CONTACT US ON**



legacies@theairambulance.org.uk



0300 3045 999



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