



A guide to Wills and Legacies

Why make a Will?

It's easy to put off making your Will for all sorts of reasons but it is never too early to put your affairs in order and to make sure your friends, family and the causes you care about are taken care of, whatever the future may bring. An up-to-date Will can avoid confusion about your wishes and help put your mind at rest.

Making a Will is easier than you might think and if you are unsure where to start, this guide will help. It's full of information about making or amending your Will and also has information on how to include a legacy gift to the Foundation for Liver Research. By choosing to support us in this way, you could help us make a better future for those who suffer from liver disease.

Reasons to remember us in your Will

1 in 10 people will have a problem with their liver at some point in their life. Unfortunately that is likely to include someone you know and love and you may have already experienced the distress and heartache of someone who has faced the pain and difficulty of liver disease.

Our scientists are working to improve methods of diagnosis and treatment for a variety of liver conditions. Earlier diagnosis often means that treatments will have a better chance of success. Newer treatments will hopefully be more effective and with less side effects. Liver disease is a huge and growing problem worldwide and while we would love to cure it, for now we have a more realistic aim, to improve diagnosis and treatments for those affected.

Real lives can be changed

We want to help more people like Sally, who developed autoimmune liver disease and over a few short months became very ill indeed. Her life was saved by a liver transplant over 25yrs ago and she has lived a happy and active life.



Sally's Story

"I had been very fit and healthy and lived a completely normal and active life. I attended an outdoor management development course at the end of 1986 and when I got home I became very ill. Over the next three months my health deteriorated and I was admitted to hospital where I went into a coma. Eventually I was rushed to hospital in London and my devastated parents were told I had **just twelve hours to live**. The doctors never gave up hope and my details were entered on the urgent transplant register. Miraculously, and against all odds, a donor organ became available and I underwent an **emergency liver transplant** in March 1987. Unaware of just how ill I had been, my doctors and family carefully explained that I had received a new liver. Initially I was shocked about what had happened to me and what the future would be like. Very quickly I accepted the circumstances of my transplant and **within twelve weeks I was home**.

I made a full recovery and although I still have to take anti-rejection drugs and will do so for the rest of my life, without my transplant I would certainly have died all those years ago. Thanks to my transplant not only have I had a brilliant career but, much more importantly, **I have been here to be a part of my family's life**. I met and married my husband John and I have seen my two beautiful nieces born and grow up. Twenty-five years have flown by but I've loved every minute. I am determined to live a normal, happy and healthy life for as long as possible.

I am so grateful to my doctors, to the surgeons who carried out the transplant and to the family of the donor who gave me this second chance. But I know that behind all this medical skill and care were **years of research that turned a theory into a treatment** for someone like me. I will be forever grateful to all those people who made my liver transplant both a possibility and a success."



A gift in your Will can ensure there's no end to your support. A legacy gift to the Foundation, whatever the amount, will help us continue our research.

Save time and money by being prepared

Before visiting a solicitor or Will writer there are a few things you should do:

- *Estimate the value of your estate.* Draw up one list of the current value of everything you own (your assets) – your house, shares, bank accounts, for example – and another of all your debts (your liabilities).
- *Decide who you want to include in your Will.* Gifts can be anything you own and can take the form of specific items, cash amounts or a percentage of your estate.
- *Choose who you want to be your executors* (the people who will make sure your wishes are carried out) and guardians for your children if appropriate.
- *Decide if you want to include a gift to charity.* Many people don't realise they can leave a gift in their Will to continue supporting the causes they care about.
- *Take a list of the full names and addresses of everyone you want to name in your Will.* If you decide to leave a gift to the Foundation for Liver Research our charity number and address are on page 4.

If you would like more help or advice on preparing your Will please call us on 020 7255 9832 or email n.day@researchinliver.org.uk

FAQs

What if I don't make a Will?

If you die without making a Will, you are said to have died "intestate" and UK law will decide who inherits your estate (property, personal possessions and money). This may mean that it doesn't go where you want it to. So it really is important to make a Will and make your intentions clear.

Will I have to pay Inheritance Tax?

Depending on the value of your estate you may be liable for Inheritance Tax. Gifts to charities are exempt from Inheritance Tax so including a gift to the Foundation for Liver Research could have tax benefits.

How often should I update my Will?

You should look over your Will every three to five years or whenever your personal circumstances change such as a birth or a death in your family, or if you get married or, sadly, divorced. You may also want to review it following changes to the taxation system or to your finances. It is important to keep an eye on the value of your estate to stay one step ahead of any Inheritance Tax liability.

What types of gifts do people leave charities in their Wills?

People most commonly leave either a Residuary or Pecuniary legacy to charity.

Residuary legacy – This is a share (or all) of what is left of your estate once all other legacies, debts and Inheritance Tax have been paid. If you wish the rest of your estate to go to one or more people or to a charity then leave your legacy as a percentage of the residue of your estate.

Pecuniary legacy – This gift is a fixed sum of money made to a person or an organisation.

What is the recommended wording if I want to include a gift to the Foundation for Liver Research in my Will?

If you are considering including a gift to us in your Will, thank you. Your gift will make a vital difference to research into liver disease. Your solicitor or Will writer will know the specific wording required but you can also find some sample wording at the end of this Guidance. You will need to ensure that our registered charity number which is 1134579 is included and our address is the Foundation for Liver Research, c/o Institute of Hepatology, 69 – 75 Chenies Mews, London WC1E 6HX.

I don't have a large estate. How can I make a difference to the work of the Foundation for Liver Research?

Large or small, all legacy gifts are important to us and help to build a brighter future for those diagnosed with liver disease.

Can I add the Foundation for Liver Research to my existing Will?

If you already have a Will you can still help us by adding a codicil to your existing Will, which would amend your Will to include a legacy to the Foundation. A codicil is a short and fairly simple legal document but we recommend that you consult a solicitor (or a qualified Will writer recognised by a professional body) to prepare it. Please be aware that simply making handwritten amendments to your current Will could make the whole Will invalid.

I have already decided to leave the Foundation for Liver Research a gift in my Will – do I need to tell anyone?

The short answer is 'no' but if you are intending to leave us a legacy gift, then please let us know so that we can thank you. Call us on 020 7255 9832, write to us or send an email: n.day@researchinliver.org.uk. Not only with this enable us to thank you but we can also keep you up to date with our work. Any information you provide to us will be treated in the strictest confidence and it is not legally binding.

Who can I contact for confidential help on writing my Will?

We recommend that you consult a solicitor or a qualified Will writer. It is important to get independent legal and financial advice to ensure that your Will reflects your wishes. For information on how to find a qualified Will writer we suggest you visit the Institute of Professional Will Writers at <http://www.ipw.org.uk/> or the Society of Will Writers <http://www.willwriters.com/> or contact your solicitor.

How your support helps

The scientists of the Foundation for Liver Research are based at the Institute of Hepatology, London. This is a purpose-built research centre with four floors of laboratories. Our scientists are working in a number of teams looking at different aspects of liver disease including viral hepatitis, fatty liver disease, liver cancer and the impact of drugs and alcohol.

We are working to improve the diagnosis and treatment of liver disease and improve the lives of those who face this challenging illness.

A gift to the Foundation for Liver Research in your Will could help transform lives.

Help us Fight Liver Disease

If you would like more help or advice on how to prepare your Will please call us on 020 7255 9832 or email n.day@researchinliver.org.uk

You can ensure there is no end to our support

The money we receive from Wills is vital to our continuing work and the simple fact is that, without the generosity of people like you remembering the Foundation for Liver Research in their Will, we may not be able to support research into liver disease in the years to come.

Help us Fight Liver Disease

Example wording for charitable legacies:-

Pecuniary legacy

I leave to (CHARITY NAME) of (CHARITY ADDRESS) Charity Registration Number: (xxxxxxx) the sum of £ (to be completed) (amount in words) for its general purposes and I direct that the receipt of a duly authorised officer shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors.

Residuary legacy

I leave to (CHARITY NAME) of (CHARITY ADDRESS) Charity Registration Number: (xxxxxxx) (proportion of residue to be completed) for its general purposes and I direct that the receipt of a duly authorised officer shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors.

Charity mergers

If two charities merge, a gift to either of them will not always take effect as a gift for the successor charity, and it may be advisable to provide for this in the Will, to avoid an application to the Charity Commission.

To ensure that the executors can benefit a replacement charity if the correct charity cannot be correctly identified at your death, the Will should include a general cy-près clause as follows:

"If before my death (or after my death but before my Trustees have given effect to the gift) any charitable or other body to which a gift is made by this Will or any codicil to it has changed its name or amalgamated with any other body or transferred all its assets to any other body then my Trustees shall give effect to the gift as if it were a gift to the body in its changed name or to the body which results from the amalgamation or to the body to which the assets have been transferred".