



# HOW TO CREATE YOUR LASTING LEGACY



Think  
about today



Imagine  
tomorrow



Plan for  
the future

A guide to will writing and gifts in wills

**MACMILLAN**  
CANCER SUPPORT

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**'We hope this easy-to-follow guide will help you write your will and understand how you can help Macmillan do whatever it takes for people living with cancer.'**



**Craig Fordham,**  
Director of Gifts in Wills

1

THINK ABOUT  
TODAY

2

IMAGINE  
TOMORROW

3

PLAN FOR THE  
FUTURE



Writing a will is a great opportunity to think about the people and causes that mean the most to you today.



**'I can't praise the Macmillan team enough for everything that they did for my wife and that's why I made the decision to leave a legacy to Macmillan.'**

Kiran, pledged a gift in his will to Macmillan.

## **YOUR DECISION TODAY COULD CHANGE LIVES TOMORROW**

You may have been affected by cancer yourself, cared for a loved one with cancer or have friends or family who have been affected by a diagnosis.

Whatever your connection, you'll know how much it can turn someone's world upside down.

That's why we're here today – to do whatever it takes to support people when they need us most.

A gift in your will helps make this possible.

After looking after friends and family, whether it's a percentage of your estate or a specific sum of money, a gift in your will to Macmillan could help us be there for the next generation too.

Your gift will mean we can keep giving expert care through Macmillan nurses, keep being a friendly voice on the end of the phone, keep offering comfort and support when people need it most and keep providing financial support so that money is one less worry.

It's people like you who enable all this to happen – because your help means we can be there with the clinical, financial and emotional support that's so incredibly important when you're living with cancer.



# TREVOR'S STORY

The donations we receive through gifts in wills are making a real difference and they mean that we can continue to support people like Trevor.

'My wife Rosalind was diagnosed with cancer in March 2016. Shortly after her diagnosis we were assigned a Macmillan nurse, Lisa, who would regularly visit us.

She would talk to Rosalind about how she was feeling, how she was dealing with the medication, and just generally, how she was coping. They got along so well and they would have a laugh together.

Rosalind looked forward to her coming over and she was always asking me when her next visit would be.

It wasn't just Rosalind that looked forward to her visits, Lisa always found time for me too. She took the time to speak to me about how I was and how I was coping. It's hard to put into words how grateful I am. Her support helped me so much and was a huge comfort. Lisa truly was our lifeline.



**'If I can give just one person the same support we had then I have made a difference.'**

My dear wife sadly died in January 2017. We had been together for 39 years and the pain I feel will be with me for the rest of my life. However, Lisa's regard for me continued even after Rosalind died, and I still continue to see her now.

I can't thank Macmillan enough for their support for me and for when Rosalind was ill. That's why I wanted to give something back.

We had always been meaning to make a will but we never got round to it. Once Rosalind died I decided to go ahead and do it.

I saw a solicitor and got it sorted. As a thank you for how incredible Macmillan were, I left a gift in my will to them.

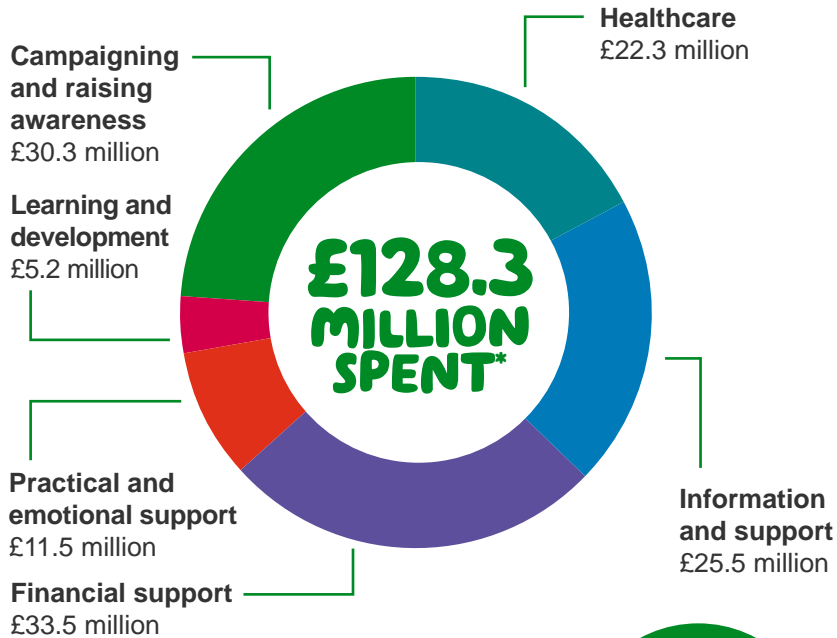
It was such a straightforward process, so simple and easy, and if I can give just one person the same support we had then I have made a difference.'



Trevor, whose wife Rosalind was diagnosed with breast cancer and sadly died in January 2017.

# HOW WE HELPED IN 2020

We're doing everything we can to support people living with cancer today and in the future.



Number of people we supported with **emotional, practical and financial** support on our website.



Percentage of our income that is **fundraised or donated**.



Percentage of our income **raised through gifts in wills**.



A gift in your will could make a lasting difference to people living with cancer.



4m

The number of people living with cancer in the UK is set to rise to **4 million** by 2030.

3.2%

The number of people living with cancer in the UK is **increasing** by 3.2% every year.

3m

The number of people that were **living with cancer** in 2020 was 3 million.

## CHANGING TOMORROW

### Leave a lasting legacy

When we look back over our lives, we think about the things that matter most to us; our family, our friends and our community.

By choosing to leave a gift to Macmillan in your will, you'll make a difference to the lives of those that need it the most as well as your loved ones after you've gone.

With more and more people living with cancer each year, your gift will be needed more than ever.

### The future of cancer care

The number of people living with cancer is increasing by 3.2% every year and an estimated 4 million people are expected to be living with the disease by 2030. As the number of people diagnosed increases, so does the need for our services.

A gift in your will could help ensure that we can continue to be there to meet this future need. Through each and every gift we receive we can carefully plan for the future ahead and with your generous gift, along with other peoples', we will be able to continue doing whatever it takes for people with cancer.



# THE DIFFERENCE YOUR GIFT CAN MAKE

Every single gift we receive is precious. It enables us to support people and their families from the moment of diagnosis, guiding each person through from the start.

Your gift will mean that we can invest even more into ensuring that people with cancer get the clinical, emotional and financial support that they need.

From creating more nursing posts and cancer care centres to more calls answered on the support line and more benefits advisers to ease money worries.

We funded over 12,000 Macmillan professional posts in 2020 and we want this to continue in the future.

Every single penny in every single gift adds up to make a huge difference and yours could be life-changing.

Sharon, diagnosed with myeloma in 2015 and unrelated breast cancer in 2020. It's through gifts like these that Sharon was able to be supported by a Macmillan nurse.

# FUNDING OUR VITAL SERVICES

Almost a third of our vital services are funded by gifts in wills. Every gift makes a difference, so even a small percentage of your estate could have a lasting impact on someone living with cancer.



**£60,000**

Could pay for a Macmillan nurse for a year, helping people living with cancer and their families receive essential medical, practical and emotional support.

**£15,000**

Could help run the financial guidance element of the Macmillan Support Line for nearly a week, providing a range of financial support to people affected by cancer.



**£3,500**

Could keep a Macmillan information and support centre stocked with all the information resources it needs to support people affected by cancer for one year.

**£350**

Could fund a Macmillan Grant to help with the extra costs that living with cancer can bring. They can be used to buy specialist equipment or to meet other unmet needs.





# A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Writing your will provides an opportunity to think about the things that matter most to you.

Whether this is family or friends, think about who you want to remember and the types of gifts that you want to leave them.

Once you've looked after your loved ones you may also want to consider supporting causes that mean a lot to you or those close to you.

Gifts in wills left to charities are incredibly important. If it wasn't for these gifts, we wouldn't be able to help anywhere near as many people with cancer as we currently do.



Taking the time now to sort out your will means the people and causes you care about will be well looked after.



**‘I can’t thank Macmillan enough for their support when my wife Rosalind was ill, so I wanted to give something back.’**

Trevor, pledged a gift in his will to Macmillan.



## UNDERSTANDING YOUR WILL

The process of writing a will can sometimes be hard to understand, but that’s why we’re here to help.

It all starts with your estate.

Your estate is what you leave behind after you’re gone. This is made up of everything you own, like money, property and personal belongings.

Your estate also includes your share of things that you own with other people. Anything you owe, for example a mortgage, is taken away from the total value of your estate.

A will is a legally binding document that sets out how your estate should be distributed. It’s where you can say who you want your belongings to go to and who should look after your children. You can also include your wishes of what type of funeral you would like and it’s where you can request how your gift is used.

Having an up-to-date, professionally written will is the best way to ensure your wishes are followed.

If you die without a will, you’re ‘intestate’ and the law decides who inherits your estate, which may not be what you want to happen. That’s why making your will is so incredibly important.

# TYPES OF GIFTS

Leaving a gift in your will to Macmillan is simple and easy to do and, if you choose this incredible way of giving, there are different types of gifts to choose from.

## Residuary

A residuary gift is a share of your estate – a percentage of what is left after any taxes or costs have been subtracted. Because this gift is a percentage of your estate you don't need to worry if your financial situation changes.



## Pecuniary

A pecuniary gift is a fixed amount of money, e.g. £5,000.



## Specific

These are particular items, such as a house, stocks and shares or jewellery. Anything that's of financial value to you.



## Restricting gifts

If you leave a gift to Macmillan in your will and would like this to be used for a particular area of our work, please express this as a non-binding wish. We will do our best to fulfil your wishes, but if this is not possible,

we will spend the funds as near as possible to the wishes expressed to do whatever it takes to help people living with cancer. Get in touch with our team if you have any questions - see contact details on page 29.

# THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

When writing a will there are a few formalities that you must consider first.

## Choosing a solicitor / will writer

Many people have relatively straightforward financial and family circumstances. If that is you, then a simple will from a solicitor, will writer or online provider, such as one of our Free Will Service partners (see page 22), will be suitable.

However, using a solicitor is particularly important if your will is not straightforward. This might be the case if:

- You own a property with someone who is not your husband, wife or civil partner.
- You have young children.
- You have children with a former partner.
- You have children and you are not leaving your estate to them.
- You want to leave money to someone who cannot care for themselves.
- You own a property overseas.
- You own a business.

## Guardians

If you are a parent, you should decide who you want to be your children's legal guardians if both parents die when the children are under 18 (or under 16 in Scotland).

## Appoint an executor

In order to carry out the instructions of your will, you'll need to choose someone that you trust to be your executor.

## What do executors do?

Executors make sure your estate is administered as you would like. They can be solicitors who charge, or alternatively you may want to choose friends or family. Although friends and family can't charge for the work, they may want to pay a solicitor to help them. They can use estate funds to pay for this. It's a big job so it's wise to think carefully about who would be best for it.

Some people choose to ask Macmillan to be their executor. It's an honour to be trusted and we will always make sure your wishes are followed. We ask solicitors to help us, but always make sure the price is fair and the work meets our high standards.

## Mirror / joint wills

Mirror wills are two separate wills which set out the same wishes within both. For example, for two spouses or partners. The two wills would essentially mirror what the other says.

# FREE WILL SERVICE

Macmillan works with partners across the UK to offer a Free Will Service. If you've got a straightforward estate, you can access a free will through our service in up to six different ways, depending on where you live in the UK.



Online



By post



Face-to-face at home



By phone



By video



In branch

To register for your free will, please visit [macmillan.org.uk/free-wills-service](https://macmillan.org.uk/free-wills-service), where you'll also find more information on our partners and will writing methods, or give us a call on:

**0800 8048 490**

In branch appointments are not available at the time of printing (May 2021) but will resume as soon as possible, in line with government guidelines. Please visit [macmillan.org.uk/free-wills-service](https://macmillan.org.uk/free-wills-service) for more information.

# UNDERSTANDING YOUR OPTIONS

However you decide to write or update your will, we would recommend using a solicitor or an experienced will writer. It doesn't have to be expensive and you can look around for different quotes to get a good deal.

For help on finding a local solicitor, use our recommended contacts below.



## Scotland

The Law Society of Scotland  
**0131 226 7411**  
[lawscot.org.uk](https://lawscot.org.uk)

## England and Wales

The Law Society  
**0207 242 1222**  
[lawsociety.org.uk](https://lawsociety.org.uk)

## Northern Ireland

The Law Society of Northern Ireland  
**0289 023 1614**  
[lawsoc-ni.org](https://lawsoc-ni.org)

# UNDERSTANDING INHERITANCE TAX

There's normally no Inheritance Tax to pay if either:

- The value of your estate is below the £325,000 threshold.
- You leave everything above the £325,000 threshold to your spouse, civil partner, a charity or a community amateur sports club.

If you give away your home to your children (including adopted, foster or stepchildren) or grandchildren, your threshold can increase to £500,000.

If you're married or in a civil partnership and your estate is worth less than your threshold, any unused threshold can be added to your partner's threshold when you die. This means the threshold can be as much as £1 million.

## Inheritance Tax rates

The standard Inheritance Tax rate is 40%. It's only charged on the part of your estate that's above the threshold.

For example, if your estate is worth £500,000 and your tax-free threshold is £325,000, the Inheritance Tax charged will be 40% of £175,000 (£500,000 minus £325,000).

## How can leaving a gift to charity reduce Inheritance Tax?

If you leave your entire estate to charity, the gift would be completely free of Inheritance Tax. Leaving just 10% of your taxable estate can reduce your Inheritance Tax rate from 40% to 36%.

Inheritance Tax can be very complicated so we really recommend speaking to someone qualified to advise you about estate planning if you think you may be liable for tax.

For more information about Inheritance Tax please visit [gov.uk/inheritance-tax](https://www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax).

## Start planning

Use the checklists on the following pages to help you make a record of your assets and the people or causes you'd like to remember in your will.

## Register for our Free Will Service or choose a solicitor

Refer back to page 23 for details on finding a local solicitor and be sure to ask about Inheritance Tax. Alternatively, use our Free Will Service – see page 22 for more details.

## Update your will

When things in life change, whether you get married, enter into a civil partnership, get divorced or have children or grandchildren, you may want to update your will. You may also need to change your will if your finances change.

## Keep it safe

Leave your original will document in a place where it is secure and easy to find, for example, with your solicitor. Keep a copy yourself and make sure your executors know where it is.

If you choose to leave a gift to Macmillan, you just need to add the charity name, number, address and type of gift into your will.

Macmillan Cancer Support (registered charity number 261017) of 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7UQ.

# DECIDE WHO YOU'D LIKE TO PROVIDE FOR

Make a list of all the family and friends you want to remember and consider the types of gifts you might want to leave them. For example, you might want to give a specific amount of money, or an item with real or sentimental value. Once you've provided for your loved ones, please consider supporting your favourite cause too. Whether you give a percentage of what's left of your estate, or a specific sum of money, every gift left to Macmillan helps make a vital difference to people living with cancer.

## Family

## Friends

## Charities/Organisations

If you want to continue making a difference to the lives of others even after you die, think about the type of gift that you would like to leave in your will. Refer back to page 20 for more details.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## Executors

Refer back to the information on page 21 and decide who you would like to be your trusted executor.

## Legal guardian(s) (if you have children under 18)

If applicable, decide who you want to be the legal guardians of your children. Go back to page 21 for more information.

## Funeral instructions

You may want to include any special funeral requests you have in your will, such as opting for a charitable donation rather than flowers.

## Care of my dependent relative(s)

## Look after my pet(s)

Always a part of the family, it's a good idea to make arrangements for who will care for your pets after you're gone. You can leave specific details about this in your will.

## Previous wills and codicils or foreign will details (if applicable)

## Other

## WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO LEAVE?

It's surprising how the value of your home and possessions add up. The following checklist will give you an idea of the value of your estate. Completing this now will only take a few minutes, but will save time when you are with your solicitor.

### EVERYTHING I OWN (assets)

House value	£ _____
Car	£ _____
Jewellery	£ _____
Furniture/antiques/collectables	£ _____
Bank accounts – current balance	£ _____
Building society – current balance	£ _____
ISAs/saving certificates/premium bonds	£ _____
Stocks and shares	£ _____
Life assurance policies	£ _____
Other possessions	£ _____
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ _____</b>

### EVERYTHING I OWE (liabilities)

Mortgage – outstanding balance	£ _____
Overdrafts	£ _____
Credit card debts	£ _____
Bank loans	£ _____
Other debts	£ _____
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ _____</b>

**TOTAL ASSETS** £ \_\_\_\_\_

**LESS TOTAL LIABILITIES** £ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ESTATE VALUE** £ \_\_\_\_\_

Money owed to me

(by \_\_\_\_\_ ) £ \_\_\_\_\_

## WE'RE ALWAYS HERE IF YOU NEED US

**If you have any questions, please do get in touch.**

We aren't solicitors ourselves, but we can answer any general questions you have about wills and gifts in wills, or provide you with more information about how we support people living with cancer.

### Help us plan for tomorrow

If you would like to tell us why you've chosen to leave a gift in your will, we'd love to hear from you. It's wonderful for us to know that people want to support us and it helps us plan for the future.

Call **0300 1000 200**

Email **leavealegacy@macmillan.org.uk**

Visit **macmillan.org.uk/legacies**

At Macmillan, we give people with cancer everything we've got. If you're diagnosed, your worries are our worries. We will move mountains to help you live life as fully as you can.

And we don't stop there. We're going all out to find ever better ways to help people with cancer, helping to bring forward the day when everyone gets life-transforming support from day one.

We're doing whatever it takes. But without your help we can't support everyone who needs us. To donate, volunteer or raise money call **0300 100 200** or visit **macmillan.org.uk**

If you no longer wish to receive mail from Macmillan, please call our fundraising support centre on **0300 1000 200**.  
Printed using sustainable materials.

**GIFTS IN  
WILLS**



Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland. MAC18738\_0921

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