

NORTH · LONDON HOSPICE

Your donations make our work possible



Leaving a Legacy

THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING A WILL

No one likes to think about making a will, and people have all sorts of reasons for not making one. They don't have time, they don't believe it's necessary and, of course, none of us like to think about dying. Yet making a will is probably one of the most important things you can do to ensure that your wishes will be carried out.

A will is the only way to ensure that you protect the rights of those you wish to benefit from your estate. Yet despite this, only one in three people actually make a will. When no will exists, it can cause stress and upset to loved ones at a time when they least need it. It can also cause complications during the redistribution of your estate and, in some cases, money

is claimed by the taxman that would otherwise be distributed to the people and causes that are close to your heart.

Making or updating your will doesn't have to be hard work or expensive, and the relief of knowing that you've put your affairs in order can be a great feeling. The next few pages of this booklet will guide you through the steps you'll need to take.

When making or changing your will, it is important to consider who you wish to benefit and then remember the causes that are dear to you.

Funds may not be readily available to make gifts during your lifetime. A gift in your will is a wonderful way to ensure that future generations benefit from the care and support North London Hospice provides.

It is with the help of gifts in wills (referred to as 'legacies') that we will be able to continue to develop our services and help even more patients and their families and friends.

'North London Hospice knew they could rely on my help long before I knew how much I would need theirs. When the time came, they not only made my husband's life infinitely more comfortable, but they also held us together, tenderly and protectively, as a family, before and after his passing.'

Maureen Lipman CBE, Patron of North London Hospice



A GIFT TO NORTH LONDON HOSPICE COULD HELP US INVEST IN THE CARE OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

For those living with a life-limiting illness, North London Hospice is much more than a place to spend their final days. We provide a range of services to help patients, their families and carers at a very difficult time.

Our vision is that everyone in our diverse community affected by a life-limiting illness has equal access to the services and support they need to maximise their quality of life.

Our care does not stop. Last year the Hospice provided free care for over 2,200 patients in their homes, our inpatient unit and our day centre.

We value and promote an ethos of respect on all levels and we are proud of our identity as the UK's first purpose-built, multi-faith hospice.



We are a registered charity and receive just under a third of our funding from the NHS. Consequently, we rely on donations and legacies to help raise more than £6 million every year to ensure that we are able to provide the excellent services our patients deserve.

Your support is vital in enabling us to provide emotional, spiritual and practical support to our patients and their loved ones.

Here are just some examples of what we could use your legacy gift for:

£500

could pay for one pressure-relieving mattress for patients with limited or no mobility

£1000

could help pay for specialist nursing care for two days in our inpatient unit

£5000

could cover transport costs for our community team for one year

£30000

would cover the entire cost of running the Hospice for one day

£ Larger Amounts

can contribute to extending our care services and creating new facilities

We hope that you will consider leaving a gift in your will to enable North London Hospice to continue our vital work into the future. Your generosity is most appreciated and received with our grateful thanks.

HELPFUL TIPS FOR LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

LIST YOUR ASSETS

The first step in writing your will is to make a list of all your assets, such as property, cash, investments, vehicles and any other valuable possessions. There is a useful checklist in this booklet to help you do this.

CHOOSE YOUR BENEFICIARIES

You may choose anyone you wish to benefit from your will. They are called the 'beneficiaries' of your will. These may be family, friends, organisations or charitable causes.

A WORD ON INHERITANCE TAX

The legal rules on Inheritance Tax change regularly so it is important to make sure you have up-to-date information. All bequests to charity are exempt from Inheritance Tax. These bequests are deducted before the estate is valued – this can mean a charitable gift takes the estate below the Inheritance Tax level. For more information about Inheritance Tax, visit the HMRC website: www.hmrc.gov.uk/inheritancetax or contact the Probate and Inheritance Tax helpline on 0300 123 1072.

CHOOSING YOUR EXECUTOR(S)

An 'executor' is the person or persons named in your will who will be responsible for handling your estate and making sure that your wishes are carried out after you die. An executor's duties include ensuring that all debts, bills, funeral expenses and taxes are paid from your estate, and that all your beneficiaries receive what you intend them to inherit. It's important to choose your executor(s) carefully. You might want to choose a friend, a family member, or a professional such as your solicitor or accountant. Or, you could choose a combination of two or more of these individuals.

PREPARING YOUR WILL

There is no legal obligation to hire a professional to write your will, but the legal and financial consequences of any error or oversight in the process can be quite serious. So you might see the cost of the legal fees as a wise investment. If you use a solicitor, all the advice they give is covered by their professional indemnity insurance. This means that any losses caused by incorrect advice are covered by the solicitor's insurer. Also, if you wish to set up a trust, or include in your will any complex clauses such as conditional gifts, a solicitor will make sure that this is done properly and without errors that could cause difficulties for your loved ones after your death.

SIGNING YOUR WILL

It is crucial to follow the correct procedures when signing your will, otherwise it may be declared legally invalid.

- The 'testator' (the person whose will it is) and two witnesses must be in the same room at the same time for the whole process of signing and witnessing the will.
- The witnesses must not be beneficiaries (people who will receive money, assets or anything else from the estate).
- A blind person cannot be a witness.
- The first person to sign must be the testator, and they should sign in the sight of both witnesses.
- Each witness should then sign in the sight of the testator and the other witness.
- The will must be dated with the date on which it is signed and witnessed.
- You must not attach any additional pages to the will.



STORING YOUR WILL

Once your will is properly signed and witnessed, it is a legal document. It is important to store your will safely and inform your executor(s) where it is stored. If your will was prepared by your solicitor, it is usually possible to ask them to store the original safely and give you a copy, free of charge.

CHANGING YOUR WILL

After you have made your will, you may choose to change it at any time. People want to consider updating their will after a change of circumstances, since some life-changing events render the will invalid.

For example:

- A marriage or divorce
- The birth of a child
- A major change in financial circumstances
- The death of a partner or other beneficiary
- A change of mind

To change your will, you cannot simply write changes on the existing document. There are two legally valid ways to change your will:

- For small changes – by making a codicil
- For major changes – by making a new will and revoking the old one

Your solicitor will be able to offer you guidance on the best way of making changes that meet your new requirements.

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR YOUR SOLICITOR

If you choose to leave a gift to North London Hospice in your will, please make sure that you use the full name, address and charity registration number. Simple wording errors in a will can cause confusion and a delay in carrying out your wishes.

North London Hospice
47 Woodside Avenue
London
N12 8TT

Charity Registration Number: 285300

'The Hospice is an amazing place, full of compassion, care and help when needed.'

CHECKLIST OF ASSETS

You may wish to complete this form and take it with you when you discuss making or changing your will with your solicitor.

WHAT YOU OWN (YOUR ASSETS)

You should include your share of any property, money or possessions owned jointly with any person, including your husband or wife.

Home	£
Other Property	£
Household Contents*	£
Valuables*	£
Furniture/Antiques*	£
Jewellery*	£
Car(s)^	£
Savings and Cash	£
Stocks and Shares*	£
Other Investments	£
Pension Benefits	£
Life Insurance (if you died now)	£
Any Other Investments	£
Any Other Assets	£
Total Assets	£

WHAT YOU OWE (YOUR LIABILITIES)

You should not include anything that will be paid off after your death.

Mortgage	£
Bank Loans	£
Hire Purchase Agreements	£
Bank Overdrafts	£
Credit Cards	£
Tax Owed	£
Any Other Bills	£
Total Liabilities	£

Value of your Estate
(total assets minus total liabilities)

£

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Our legacy officer is happy to help answer any general questions you may have about wills, legacies or North London Hospice. Please call the Hospice's Legacy Officer on **020 8446 2288** for a confidential chat.

*insurance value ^ resale value *market value

OUR PLEDGE OF DISCRETION

We respect the fact that giving is a very personal and entirely voluntary decision. Please be assured that the information you choose to provide will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. Moreover, we remain equally grateful for the legacy support of those who choose not to advise us of their gifts.

If you feel that it is appropriate please complete and return this Legacy Pledge Form to:

The Legacy Officer
North London Hospice
47 Woodside Avenue
London N12 8TT

I have left a gift to North London Hospice in my will:

Title:	Full name:
Home address:	
Postcode:	

Please tick the box if you would prefer NOT to be recognised as a Legator.

If you also feel able to provide the following information it would be a tremendous help to us in our long-term planning.

My bequest to North London Hospice is:

- A specific sum of money (pecuniary bequest)
- A specific item (assets, shares)
- A share of the residue of my estate

Please use this space for any further details you would like to add (e.g. the sum of money, the specific item etc).

NORTH · LONDON HOSPICE



'I have decided to leave a gift in my will to the North London Hospice. For more than 20 years I have been involved with our local support group raising funds for the Hospice. Throughout those years, I have been exceedingly impressed by the medical and nursing care and attention given to patients as well as their families. Each and every one is treated with dignity and humanity – something so rare to receive and observe today. A donation of any amount given in your will would be enormously appreciated.'

Helen Bloom, Hospice supporter