



**THIS IS  
HOSPICE  
CARE** ♥

# Leaving a gift in your Will

**Your kindness can live on**  
Supporting local families today, tomorrow  
and for generations to come



[TheShakespeareHospice.org.uk/LegacyOfLove](https://TheShakespeareHospice.org.uk/LegacyOfLove)





## Helping Care Live On

Hospice care is about so much more than the final stages of life. It's about helping people live well, feel understood, and face the hardest moments with strength they didn't know they had.

Every day, someone in our community walks through our doors feeling scared, overwhelmed or alone. But thanks to people like you, they leave feeling supported, comforted and able to keep going. Many supporters tell us they didn't truly understand the difference the Hospice makes until they, or someone they loved, needed us.

**For some supporters, choosing to leave a gift in their Will is their final act of kindness — a way of saying thank you after taking care of the people they love.**

# Making a Will guarantees your wishes are carried out

Creating a Will is one of the most thoughtful things you can do for the people and causes you care about. It ensures your wishes are honoured, your loved ones are protected, and the story of your values is carried forward.

Many people like you choose to include a gift to a charity that has been part of their life story. It helps to continue the care, kindness and compassion they believe in.

A Will gives you clarity, control and comfort. And for those who decide to remember The Shakespeare Hospice, it becomes a legacy of love.



**“When my doctor first suggested The Shakespeare Hospice, I didn’t want to go. I was frightened, and it felt like walking through those doors meant admitting defeat. But within minutes of arriving, everything changed. I felt safe, understood, and completely at ease. Coming here became one of the best decisions I’ve ever made.”**

**Kate, former Hospice patient**

Before the Hospice supported Kate, she felt isolated, overwhelmed and close to giving up. After we supported her, she found hope, strength and a community that carried her through the darkest moments.

**This is the incredible difference your kindness makes — today and for generations.**

# A gift that's kinder than you might expect

Many people are surprised to learn that leaving a gift in their Will doesn't have to be complicated, costly, or something you need to decide now. For many supporters, it's a gentle and thoughtful way to help care live on, while still putting loved ones first.

## Why people often feel comfortable leaving a gift

Gifts to charities are usually exempt from Inheritance Tax, which means more of your estate can go exactly where you intend. Some people choose to leave a small percentage of their estate. This type of gift adjusts naturally over time and only applies after family and friends have been provided for. Because charitable gifts are exempt, the real cost to your estate can often be less than you might expect, while still making a meaningful difference to local families who need care and support.

## Simple for you — Straightforward for others

Leaving a gift to a charity can also make things easier for those dealing with your estate, as charitable gifts are treated as exempt and are straightforward for executors to manage. Most importantly, leaving a gift in your Will does not affect your finances today. You remain in complete control throughout your lifetime and can change your mind at any time.

People often tell us they never imagined a gift in their Will could help someone feel safe, supported and less alone — long after they're gone.

## A gift made in your own time, in your own way

Leaving a gift in your Will is a simple way to carry your kindness forward. There's no pressure, no obligation — just the reassurance that, one day, your care could help someone else when they need it most.

*"I didn't see it as a financial decision. It was simply a way of saying thank you, and knowing that, in the future, someone else would feel the same care we did."*

**Hospice supporter**

**Please speak to your solicitor for any further information and personalised advice**

# What your gift could help make possible?

Your gift, whatever its size, can help provide a safe space for someone struggling through treatment, emotional support for families at breaking point, and dignity for those nearing the end of life. Because of you, this care can continue for generations.

Whether it's a percentage of your estate, a fixed amount or a specific item, every gift becomes part of something bigger: a future where no family in our community faces illness alone.



## Residuary

**A residuary gift** is a percentage or share of the balance of your estate once all other payments and gifts have been made. Many supporters choose a residual gift, as it adjusts automatically to the size of your estate, ensuring loved ones come first.



## Pecuniary

**A pecuniary gift** is a fixed amount of money. Ask your solicitor about index-linking a cash gift to ensure the relative value stays the same over time.



## Specific

**A specific gift** is a gift of a specific item such as jewellery, artwork or property.

## Glossary of terms

### Rules of Intestacy

A court and judge will decide who benefits from your assets if you die without a Will

### Testator

The person who has written a Will

### Executor

Person or persons who are appointed by the Testator in their Will to carry out the wishes after their death

### Codicil

A codicil is a legal amendment which allows you to update parts of your Will without having to re-write the whole Will

### Estate

The total money, property and assets you own

### Beneficiaries

People or charitable organisations who are benefiting or inheriting some or all of the estate



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Do I need a Solicitor to write a Will?**

Not necessarily, however we would always recommend using a solicitor, as it ensures your Will is valid and reflects your wishes clearly.

### **Should I provide for my loved ones first?**

We understand the importance of caring for your loved ones, so we would strongly encourage you to look after them first in your Will and remember us once your loved ones' needs are met.

### **I already have a Will. How do I change it to leave a gift to you?**

If you have already made a Will, but would like to change it to include a gift to The Shakespeare Hospice, you can update it by writing a codicil. A codicil is a legally binding document that allows you to make amendments to an existing Will instead of completely re-writing an already written version. Again, we would recommend speaking to your solicitor about updating your Will.

### **Do I need to be wealthy to leave a legacy?**

Not at all. Many people leave a small percentage of what's left after loved ones are cared for. No matter the size or amount, your gift will contribute to our work.

### **Can I change my mind?**

Yes, you can. A Will is a very personal document that reflects your final wishes. You're free to change your mind at any time. Just contact your solicitor to make any changes.

### **Do I need to tell you if I've left you a legacy?**

You are under no obligation to let us know if you have left us a gift. However, if you do choose to, we can thank you accordingly and plan our future services with greater confidence.

If you decide to leave us a legacy, you can be assured that your privacy is respected and any information you share is treated in the strictest confidence.

# How to leave a gift in your Will

You don't need to decide now. This information is here if and when it's useful.

To include a gift in your Will your solicitor needs to include our registered charity number, full name and our registered address:

**The Shakespeare Hospice, Church Lane, Shottery,  
Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 9UL**

**Registered charity number: 1064091**

If you need to find a solicitor, The Law Society can put you in contact with a reputable solicitor who will incorporate your wishes.

Find your nearest solicitor by visiting [solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk](https://solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk).





## Make a Will Month

Every March and October, we take part in the national Free Wills Scheme so members of our community can make or update a simple Will for free with one of our partner solicitors.

For more information, please contact the Fundraising team on **01789 266852** or email [fundraising@theshakespearehospice.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@theshakespearehospice.org.uk)

## Free Online Will Service

We've partnered with Make a Will Online so that anyone aged 18 or over can easily write or update a simple Will for free. Making a Will online is an easy 3-step process, and every Will is checked by a fully qualified UK solicitor, ensuring peace of mind.

To find out more, visit:

[TheShakespeareHospice.org.uk/support-us/wills](https://TheShakespeareHospice.org.uk/support-us/wills)

Our free specialised services are available to everyone registered with a GP in South Warwickshire.



**For more information, visit:**

[TheShakespeareHospice.org.uk](https://TheShakespeareHospice.org.uk)

Telephone: 01789 266852

Email: [enquiries@theshakespearehospice.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@theshakespearehospice.org.uk)

The Shakespeare Hospice, Church Lane, Shottery, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 9UL

Registered Charity No: 1064091