

Leaving a gift in your will

One easy way to support people facing serious illness is to remember Wakefield Hospice in your Will. It won't cost you a penny now, but will make a big difference in the future.

Help ensure that Wakefield Hospice is here for generations to come

Many people choose to leave a gift to their favourite charity. Remembering Wakefield Hospice in your Will is a lasting way to make sure we're still able to provide free specialist care for the people of Wakefield in years to come. Leaving a gift is easy, and anyone can do it. Large or small, every gift makes a tremendous difference to the future of the Hospice.

The difference a gift can make

'The staff and volunteers at the Hospice are brilliant. They've seen and heard it all before, and they're willing to listen.' Mick

'My dad, Peter, was cared for by Wakefield Hospice. We had wonderful support when we needed it most, and I hope the Hospice is around for many more years for other families.'
Rachael

'Music Therapy sessions give people a way of accessing support that otherwise they might not consider.' George

'Things here are different from a hospital. We tailor things to the individual and their family as much as we can.' Charlotte

'I've been volunteering at the Hospice for 25 years. You get satisfaction knowing that you've helped.' Jean

'I've worked at the Hospice for 26 years. It's always been a friendly place.' Sue

If you'd like to receive printed versions of these stories in full, please get in touch.

Why should I make a Will?

Making a Will means that you can decide how your property, money and possessions are distributed, and who should inherit them. It also means that your loved ones can manage your financial affairs with minimum distress and anxiety.

Why should I include Wakefield Hospice in my Will?

We understand that those closest to you will come first. We also know that personal circumstances can change and there may come a time when you need to review your Will. We would be deeply grateful if, after you have provided for your loved ones, you would consider including a small gift for Wakefield Hospice. You may want to discuss this with your family so they know your wishes. Whether it's a sum of money, a share of your property, or a specific item, any gift is very gratefully received. We will make the most of any gift that you leave us. Thank you for considering a legacy – we understand it is a very personal gift.

How will you use my gift?

Donations left in Wills are vital to our work, and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to everyone who remembers the Hospice in this very special way. Thanks to them, thousands of people have benefited and will continue to benefit from the care given by our specialist staff and volunteers. All the care that the Hospice provides for patients, families and carers is provided completely free of charge. However, the Hospice receives only 25% of its running costs through central funding, so donations from local people are essential – the Hospice couldn't manage without them. Gifts in Wills are a vital part of this. Every year, gifts left in Wills make a significant contribution to keeping the Hospice running.

How do I make a Will?

Making a Will is a lot easier than you might think, and it allows you to decide what happens to your savings, your house, and your possessions after you're gone. You can include your favourite charities too. Having a professionally prepared and up-to-date Will is the best way to ensure that your loved ones and favourite charities receive the gifts you want them to have, so we recommend that you use a solicitor when making or changing your Will.

You can find a solicitor in England or Wales through the Law Society. Call them on 020 7242 1222 or visit the Law Society website at solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk. Making a Will can seem like a daunting prospect, but with the right professional advice it doesn't have to be.

Do I have enough to leave a gift in my Will?

Any gift left to Wakefield Hospice is important to us, whatever the value. Your gift could be a small percentage of what you own. It could also be a specific amount of money, or an item such as jewellery, furniture or property. Large or small, every gift helps.

How do I leave a gift to Wakefield Hospice?

There are several different ways you can leave a gift to the Hospice, and your solicitor can give you details.

If you would like to leave a gift to support our work, you'll need to specify in your Will what you propose to leave to Wakefield Hospice. Please identify Wakefield Hospice as the intended recipient of the gift – include our registered charity number 518392.

There are two main types of gift you can make:

1. An item or a set amount of money – this is sometimes called a 'pecuniary' or 'specific' legacy
2. A percentage of your estate (your 'estate' is all your assets such as property, money and possessions) – this is sometimes called a 'residuary' legacy and is calculated after all outstanding debts and other legacies have been paid.

A percentage of your estate, or 'residuary gift', is often the most beneficial type of gift as it keeps its value with inflation. Even a gift of 1% of your estate can make a big difference.

How do I change an existing Will to include a gift to Wakefield Hospice?

If you wish to amend your Will to include a gift to Wakefield Hospice, you can complete a codicil form. This is a simple addition to your Will. Complete the codicil form and send it to your solicitor, who should not charge you for appending it to your existing Will. The original Will and codicil are then read together. It is important that you take professional advice about this.

Alternatively, you could ask your solicitor to prepare an entirely new Will which combines the original provisions and the additional gift in one document.

Are there tax benefits to including the Hospice in my Will?

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% on anything above the threshold. Your gift to Wakefield Hospice would be completely free of Inheritance Tax.

Including a gift to Wakefield Hospice could also reduce the tax payable on the rest of your estate. If 10% or more of the 'net value' of an estate is left to charity, the rate payable on the rest of the estate may be reduced to 36% (instead of 40%) on some assets. Find out more about Inheritance Tax on the government's website at <https://www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax/overview>

If you think your estate may be liable to Inheritance Tax and you wish to try and reduce the liability, you should seek the advice of a solicitor, accountant or independent financial adviser.

Do I have to tell Wakefield Hospice about my gift?

We understand that including a gift in your Will is a very personal matter. You don't need to let us know your intentions. However, if you decide to support us with a gift, we would love to hear from you. We don't need to know any details, but we can say 'thank you' and keep you up to date with our work if you'd like us to. If you'd like to let us know your intentions, please contact Clare Kemsley, Legacy and In Memory Fundraiser – call 01924 331405, email legacies@wakefieldhospice.co.uk or write to Wakefield Hospice, Aberford Road, Wakefield WF1 4TS.

Next steps

If you'd like more information on how you can support Wakefield Hospice through a gift in your Will, please contact Clare Kemsley, Legacy and In Memory Fundraiser.

Phone 01924 331405

Email clare.kemsley@wakefieldhospice.co.uk

Write to Wakefield Hospice, Aberford Road, Wakefield WF1 4TS