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Leaving a Legacy

What is a Will?

Your Will is a legal document which is used to arrange who will be given your property and possessions and be responsible for your debts after your death. You can also use it to provide for your funeral arrangements and to nominate guardians for your children if they are under 18 or have a disability which means they will be unable to look after themselves without help.

Why is it so important to make a Will?

Many people think that if they die without making a Will their estate automatically goes to their partner or next of kin when they die. However, if you die without making a Will it is possible that your entire estate could go to people who you never intended to benefit. Making a Will is the only way for you to plan how to take care of family, friends and support your favourite charities after your death.

Why use a solicitor?

A Will can be a complicated document so to ensure that it is written properly, you should consult a qualified solicitor as he/she will understand precisely what is involved, and have the necessary knowledge of taxation law. You will find details of local solicitors through the Law Society, or a local directory such as the Yellow Pages.

How much does it cost to make a Will?

The cost will vary according to your circumstances, but could be up to £150. The more complicated your situation, the more it is likely to cost. Your solicitor should be able to give you information about price.

What is inheritance tax?

Inheritance Tax is a tax on the value of a person's estate at the time of their death and on certain gifts made by them during their lifetime.

Inheritance Tax is a complicated subject. We recommend that you discuss your circumstances with your solicitor, who will know details of current taxation law, and how it applies to your circumstances. All gifts to charities are free of inheritance tax, and so the estate will almost invariably pay less tax if gifts are given to charities.

Registered Charity Number 1088570
Company Number 4207000

What is a legacy?

A legacy is the method you use to leave money to a person or charity. There are several different types of legacy:

Pecuniary: when you leave a specified amount of money

Residuary: when you leave some or all of what is left over after all outstanding debts have been paid and after other legacies (e.g. pecuniary) are made

Conditional: when you leave something dependent upon specific conditions

Specific: a specific item of jewellery or other property. This kind of legacy is good for items which have sentimental as well as financial value and are best left to an individual person.

Reversionary: when you leave a house or other property to someone for their use during their lifetime, after which it will go to another person or charity.

Why should I leave a legacy to Us in a Bus?

Legacies are a generous and effective way of providing funds for Us in a Bus to support people with profound learning disabilities and complex needs. We deliver 60 sessions a week working with 200 individuals and it costs around £100 for each session to take place. Even a gift of £2,000 could make a big difference. Leaving Us in a Bus a Legacy will help to make sure we can support and meet the needs of profoundly disabled people who need our support for many years to come.

Advice on making a Will

Us in a Bus always recommends that you consult a solicitor when drafting your Will. The advantage of using a solicitor is that they have the expertise to ensure your Will accurately reflects your wishes and takes into account up to date legislation such as inheritance tax.

If you already have a Will in place and wish to amend using a Codicil form you must keep this Codicil with your Will. If a copy of your Will is also held by your solicitor please ensure they receive a copy of the Codicil form when you have completed it.

Please keep in touch

If you have made or are going to make your Will and are leaving a legacy to Us in a Bus, please let us know. It won't commit you to anything and you can still change your Will at any time, but it will help us to plan ahead and we would also like to be able to thank you.