YOUR GIFT IN WILLS GUIDE

Without gifts in Wills, we’ll only ever be halfway to beating the world’s biggest killers.
Before we were founded, around eight out of ten babies born with a complex congenital heart condition died before their first birthday. Today, thanks to research, eight out of ten now grow up to be adults. Without gifts in Wills supporting our game-changing research, the survival rate would be a lot lower.

This guide shows you how gifts in Wills have funded half of our pioneering research work and how you can make a difference. You’ll find out how leaving a gift to us in your Will could help us make the next leap forward, and contribute to saving millions of families the pain of losing a loved before their time.

Something to think about
Almost half of all BHF research is funded by gifts in Wills

The BHF has been funding pioneering research projects for over 50 years. In that time we have contributed to many of the most amazing advances in the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease.

We funded research that helped develop long-term pacemakers, advanced heart transplantation, and helped increase the use of some of today’s widely used treatments, such as aspirin and the cholesterol-reducing drug, statins.

These advances may never have been possible without the BHF, and the support of people like you.

But the fight against heart disease is far from over. As long as cardiovascular disease continues to claim lives prematurely, we will continue to fund innovative research to find better ways of preventing and treating it.

We are currently funding research to learn about how damaged human hearts could repair themselves. Research that could one day prove the key to beating heart failure, forever.

Think what a gift in your Will could achieve.

1960s The development of the heart-lung bypass machine leads to the widespread use of open-heart surgery, the first heart transplants take place and implantable pacemakers transform the lives of millions. Without these breakthroughs, many patients like young Cordelia (pictured) would not be alive today.
The Smith family
In 2012, Jake Smith, a fit and apparently healthy 44 year old, was taken from his wife, Sally, and children, Daisy and Joe, when he died suddenly from myocarditis, an inflammation of the heart muscle. The Smith family are one of around 2,000 families every week who lose someone they love to cardiovascular disease.

Saving lives and keeping families together
How your gift will help

Many of us have been affected by cardiovascular disease in some way and know how devastating it can be.

With a gift in your Will you could help us create a better future for our children to inherit; a world in which fewer of us are affected by the sadness and pain of premature cardiovascular disease, where families can spend more precious time together, enjoy more memories, and live with more hope.

We do not know exactly when or how the next major breakthrough will occur, but we do know that, with a gift in your Will, you could be part of it.

1970s BHF-funded research into blood clots causing heart attacks paves the way for the development of clot-busting drugs, and the use of aspirin during heart attack. This combined treatment has saved thousands of lives.
In safe hands

We are profoundly grateful to anyone who supports us, however they choose to do so.

Gifts in Wills play a major part in our groundbreaking work as they currently account for almost half our income, and you can trust us to use your gift in the best possible way to ensure it has the greatest impact for years to come.

Your gift is your choice.

A gift in your Will really doesn’t have to be large to make a difference. Anything you leave can play a big part in the future.

Gifts left in Wills help in any number of ways, from funding vital research to providing life saving equipment. For example, past individual gifts have been used to:

- Fund three heart failure nurses who can see 2,000 patients a year
- Provide defibrillators across the UK, giving the nation greater access to these life saving machines.

1980s Research part funded by the BHF finds that statins can lower the risk of heart attacks in those without a known heart disease but have high cholesterol.

Richard Elgar, survivor, with son Alfie.
Robert Walker Smith, heart patient.

“In 2005 I had a heart attack. I couldn’t help but think of my father, who had died of a heart attack when I was just eight. It was terrifying. An angiogram revealed I had widespread disease of my coronary arteries and I was prescribed drugs and had two stents fitted to keep my arteries open.

I feel I owe my life to the advances that have taken place since my father’s era, and can’t believe what has already been achieved. What could happen tomorrow?

Since my treatment I have much more energy, and my friends have even commented that I have a twinkle in my eye.”

Family and friends first
With your loved ones in mind

We absolutely understand that your loved ones are likely to come first and be your priority when writing your Will.

But just a little of what’s left, once they’ve been provided for, could go a long way to securing the futures of families affected by cardiovascular disease, giving them the chance to spend more precious moments together.

We know this can be a big decision, and we would encourage you to discuss it with your family and loved ones first. Many people find they fully support the decision.

1990s Stents like those used to treat Robert (pictured opposite), are developed to hold open narrowed coronary arteries more effectively than balloon angioplasty alone. The BHF starts funding life saving defibrillators, and since then has placed over 10,000 across the UK.
How to leave a gift in your Will
Three simple ways to make a difference.

Residuary legacy
This is a share – or possibly even all – of the balance of your estate, once all other payments have been made (eg. lifetime debts, tax, administrative expenses and any pecuniary and specific legacies). It will not lose its value over time, and if you leave a proportion to us you can still ensure other beneficiaries are taken care of.

Pecuniary legacy
You may prefer to leave us a fixed amount of money. It is worth noticing that the effects of inflation could mean the true value of this gift could become less than you intended, unless you review your Will regularly, or you link it with inflation. If you are considering a cash gift, please do consider inflation proofing the legacy.

Specific legacy
This would be a gift of a specific item – such as personal possessions, land, buildings or shares.

These are the three main types of legacy. You can find other examples in the pull-out ‘Suggested wording for your Will’ under ‘Other types of legacy’.

You may also wish to dedicate your gift to a loved one by expressing your legacy as in memory.

Laura Kelly
Just three days before her 21st birthday young Laura Kelly’s life was abruptly cut short by a heart condition, leaving her family devastated. With a gift in your Will you could play a vital part in funding the research that could, one day, help save families like the Kellys from the pain of such a tragic loss.

2000s The BHF funds research to provide a better understanding of variations of the more common genes that may make one person more likely to get some heart conditions than another. The hope is to be able to try to target these people and try to prevent them from getting these heart conditions.
Your wishes are yours alone

We know that your Will is confidential and very personal to you.

Making any changes to it can be a big decision and we want you to make it in your own time so, be assured, although it helps us to know your intentions, we will never put you under any pressure.

If you decide to leave a gift in your Will and would like to let us know then please do, and of course you have the unreserved right to change your mind at any time.

Make sure your wishes are known

We know it can be easy to put off, but writing your Will is essential to ensure your loved ones and the causes you care about are taken care of exactly how you wish.

If you already have a Will there is no need to create one from scratch – you can make a simple change by adding a codicil. If you don’t have a Will, we have enclosed a handy six-step guide on what you need to think about.

2010s Scientists researching regenerative medicine believe they can unlock the secrets of the zebrafish to give vital clues of how to mend human hearts.

Alan Gilchrist

In 2009 Alan Gilchrist had a sudden heart attack, which was followed by a quadruple bypass operation and an implantable cardioverter defibrillator being fitted. The care he received prompted Alan to leave a gift in his Will to the BHF to support the research that he believes will save many more lives in the future.
We are here to help

We know it can all be a bit daunting, so we are here to give you as much help as we can. If you decide to leave a gift, the correct wording in your Will ensures your wishes are carried out. See the ‘Suggested wording for your Will’ pull-out we’ve provided for guidance.

Please be aware that Scots law operates differently. If this is relevant to you we can provide limited guidance but strongly recommend you consult a solicitor who specialises in this area.

If you would like to speak to us regarding your Will, please call 0300 330 3322 Monday to Friday 9-5pm, email legacies@bhf.org.uk or visit bhf.org.uk/think. We are always happy to help.

Thank you for thinking of us

If you are considering leaving a gift to BHF in your Will, thank you. Your kindness could help millions of people affected by cardiovascular disease and spare their families the grief of losing someone they love, too soon.

Moisten here, fold and seal.

You are under no obligation to let us know the details of your gift, but any information you can provide would help us plan our future work. The information on your reply form will, of course, be treated as confidential and is not legally binding.

How would you like to hear from us?

We would love to send you information on our life saving research and how you can help us to keep more hearts beating through fundraising, events and volunteering opportunities.

Post: Yes   No
Email: Yes   No
Phone: Yes   No
Text: Yes   No

We take your privacy seriously and will never sell or swap your details with third parties. You can withdraw your consent to be contacted at any time by calling 0300 330 3322 or by emailing supporterservices@bhf.org.uk. Information about how we protect and use your personal data is set out in our privacy policy: bhf.org.uk/privacy.
For over 50 years our research has saved lives.

We’ve broken new ground, revolutionised treatments and transformed care.

But heart and circulatory disease still kills one in four people in the UK.

That’s why we need you.

With your support, your time, your donations, our research will beat heart disease for good.

bhf.org.uk/wills

Heart Helpline
0300 330 3311
bhf.org.uk

Information & support on anything heart-related
Phone lines open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday
Similar cost to 01 or 02 numbers

The British Heart Foundation, Greater London House
180 Hampstead Road, London NW1 7AW
T: 020 7554 0000
33744_L1
Inheritance Tax (IHT) can be paid following your death on the value of your estate (and can also include the value of substantial lifetime gifts you have made, and some types of trust funds if you have received a benefit from them). Your solicitor or Institute of Professional Willwriters member will be able to advise you in more detail about this and importantly can relate this advice to your particular circumstances, but we have tried to provide a general explanation below about how IHT works in relation to estates which include charitable gifts.

**The IHT threshold – the nil rate band**

If the total value of your estate is under £325,000 (the current IHT threshold) there should be no IHT to pay unless you have made qualifying lifetime gifts or have benefitted from qualifying trust funds.

If the total value of your estate is over £325,000 IHT will have to be paid from your estate, generally at 40%, on the amount over £325,000 unless there are any exemptions available.
Example 1
If at the date of death your estate is worth £400,000 and no further exemptions are available then the IHT payable would be calculated as follows:

£400,000 - £325,000 = £75,000
£75,000 x 40% = £30,000 IHT liability

This means that if your estate is worth over £325,000, your beneficiaries will only keep £6,000 out of every extra £10,000 that you leave.

Gifts to charities, your spouse or civil partner in your Will are generally exempt from IHT. If you leave a gift to any of these, their value will be deducted from your estate before IHT liability is calculated.

Example 2
If at the date of death your estate is worth £400,000 and the whole estate is left to your spouse or civil partner or charity then your whole estate will pass free of tax under spouse / civil partner or charitable exemption.

Example 3
If at the date of your death your estate is worth £400,000 and 50% passes to charity and the remaining 50% passes to a non-exempt beneficiary (a friend for example), then the £200,000 passing to charity will be free from IHT and the £200,000 passing to your friend will also be free from IHT as this amount is within your £325,000 nil rate band (unless you have made qualifying lifetime gifts or have benefitted from qualifying trust funds).

Example 4
If at the date of death your estate is worth for example £800,000 and you leave 40% to charity (£320,000) and 60% (£480,000) to non-exempt beneficiaries, then your estate will potentially be taxable. If you do not have the benefit of any other exemptions, have made no qualifying lifetime donations nor received benefit from a qualifying trust fund then the IHT liability would be calculated as follows:

£800,000 - £320,000 = £480,000
£480,000 - £325,000 = £155,000
£155,000 x 40% = £62,000 IHT liability

Because of the way the tax rules work, this IHT liability would usually be paid solely from the non-exempt beneficiaries’ share of the estate, so that the charities would receive £320,000 and the non-exempt beneficiaries £418,000 (£480,000 less £62,000). If your intent is to effectively share the benefit of the charitable exemption with all your beneficiaries you should take legal advice as there is very specific wording which will be needed in your Will.

Transferable nil rate band

Where the first spouse or civil partner in a couple has died without using all their IHT allowance, (for instance, if they gave their whole estate to their surviving spouse / civil partner), their unused allowance can now be carried forward and used on the death of the surviving spouse or civil partner, to increase the amount of their estate which can pass free of IHT to family or friends. The maximum increase is 100% of the current nil rate
band if none of their allowance had been used, so currently up to £325,000 in addition to your own, making a maximum nil rate band of £650,000 available.

The application of this can be technical so please take appropriate legal advice if this is relevant to you.

**The new 10% IHT charity relief**

You may also have heard, if you leave over 10% of your estate to charity, that the rate of any IHT due (on any part of your estate where IHT is payable) would be reduced from 40% to 36%. If your estate is over £325,000, use of this could enable you to leave a legacy to charity, whilst reducing the rate of IHT payable which could possibly have a positive impact on non-charity beneficiaries. In some circumstances, you can use this to leave a gift to charity at no cost to the other beneficiaries in the Will.

Again, this is quite a technical provision and, if it is of interest to you, we would suggest that you speak to a solicitor.

Changes to the IHT allowance or the value of your estate could make a big difference to the amount of tax on your assets, and tax rules do change, so be sure to review your Will frequently.
Suggested wording for your Will

We strongly suggest you ask a solicitor or a member of the Institute of Professional Willwriters (IPW) to write or amend your Will. They will be able to provide the best advice on the correct wording.

Please ensure that, whatever wording is used, any legacy to us includes our full name “British Heart Foundation”, and “Registered Charity Number 225971” as this will avoid any doubt about our identity. If you wish, you can also include our current address “Greater London House, 180 Hampstead Road, London, NW1 7AW”.

The following are examples of the wording for the three main types of gift:

**Pecuniary legacy**

1.1 I GIVE:-
(a) £[insert amount in numbers] ([insert amount in words] pounds) to British Heart Foundation (Registered Charity Number 225971) of Greater London House, 180 Hampstead Road, London NW1 7AW to be applied for its general purposes
1.2 AND I DIRECT that
(a) the receipt of the person who professes to be the treasurer or other proper officer for the time being of each of the above mentioned charities shall be a complete discharge to my Executors
(b) if before my death the above mentioned charities have changed their name or amalgamated with or transferred all their assets to any other body then my Executors shall give effect to the gift as if it has been made to the body in its changed name or to the body which results from the amalgamation or to which the transfer has been made.

Residuary legacy

1.1 I GIVE all (or ... share) of my Residuary Estate to British Heart Foundation (Registered Charity Number 225971) of Greater London House, 180 Hampstead Road, London NW1 7AW to be applied for its general purposes
1.2 AND I DIRECT that
(a) the receipt of the person who professes to be the treasurer or other proper officer for the time being of each of the above mentioned charities shall be a complete discharge to my Executors
(b) if before my death the above mentioned charities have changed their name or amalgamated with or transferred all their assets to any other body then my Executors shall give effect to the gift as if it has been made to the body in its changed name or to the body which results from the amalgamation or to which the transfer has been made.

Specific legacy

1.1 I GIVE:-
(a) [insert description of the item] to British Heart Foundation (Registered Charity Number 225971) of Greater London House, 180 Hampstead Road, London NW1 7AW to be applied for its general purposes
1.2 AND I DIRECT that
(a) the receipt of the person who professes to be the treasurer or other proper officer for the time being of each of the above mentioned charities shall be a complete discharge to my Executors
(b) if before my death the above mentioned charities have changed their name or amalgamated with or transferred all their assets to any other body then my Executors shall give effect to the gift as if it has been made to the body in its changed name or to the body which results from the amalgamation or to which the transfer has been made.

The wording above could be used in a Will or Codicil. If you are updating an existing Will you can choose either to make a completely new Will, or a Codicil which would set out changes to your existing Will and be read alongside it.

Codicils are an old fashioned mechanism which were used to make updates to Wills before the use of computers, to avoid the cost of having a whole Will re-typed. In our view they are risky, as Codicils can become misplaced from the Will to which they relate, and because they need to be read with the original Will they also make any changes to the original Will.
apparent to anyone reading the Codicil (the terms of which you might prefer to keep private if you are reducing or removing a bequest from your original Will). However, if you make a new Will only the terms of the new Will would be visible. Through the use of computers it is now much easier to produce a whole new Will and we would suggest it is better to make a fresh Will instead of a Codicil to avoid any such problems.

Other types of legacy
A conditional legacy can be made to cover the eventuality that you outlive all your named dependants. If this were to occur, the legacy would be paid to the named charity in place of the individuals.

A life interest (reversionary) trust can be made so that your named dependants benefit during their lifetime, either by using the asset or receiving the income from it, with the named charity being given the asset after they have died.

Your solicitor or member of the IPW would be able to provide more detailed advice on these types of bequests.
Making a Will

These are six simple steps to help you prepare for writing your Will. We would always recommend you use a solicitor or a member of the Institute of Professional Willwriters to assist you.

1. Make a list of your assets
   It can be a good idea to list your assets and estimate their value. This is something you can do yourself, saving you time and money with your solicitor.

2. Make a list of what you owe
   Always try to write down what you owe or are owed. Considering an outstanding mortgage, loans, or bills, will give you a much better idea of the value of your estate.

3. Decide who you’d like to benefit and how
   Make a list of the people and organisations you wish to remember in your Will, and consider how you’d like to divide your estate between them.

4. Choose your executors and meet your solicitor
   You will also need to choose executors – people often choose their solicitor and a family member to carry out the terms of their Will, to ensure their wishes are fulfilled.

Continued...
5 Create a letter of wishes
You can create a letter of wishes to help those who may make your funeral arrangements when the time comes. You may wish to ask for donations as well as or instead of flowers.

6 Keep it safe and up to date
Your Will is such an important document. Most people prefer to leave it in the care of their solicitor or legal advisor and keep their own copy in a safe place, ensuring their executors know where to find it. You may wish to register your Will with one of the national Will registers, such as ‘Certainty’. Your legal advisor can give you more information about this.

You should also review your Will every five years, or after any major changes in your life – such as getting married or divorced, having a child, or moving house. Any changes must be by ‘Codicil’ (an addition, amendment or supplement to a Will) or by making a new Will, otherwise your changes will have no legal effect and could invalidate the whole of your existing Will.