



WORCESTERSHIRE
ACUTE HOSPITALS
CHARITY

Putting patients first



Gifts in Wills

Your simple guide to make a lasting difference to our hospitals, staff and the care we provide to our patients

Putting patients first by working together supporting the services and staff of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

Registered Charity No. 1054612

NHS

Worcestershire
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Welcome

Gifts in Wills make an incredible difference to our work with patients, staff and to so many departments around our hospitals.

For example, with a legacy gift we could purchase key medical equipment, it could enable research, or it could enhance the hospital environment improving the overall healthcare for patients and their carers.

Over the years, a huge amount has been achieved thanks to those who kindly choose to remember our hospitals in their Will, and by family and friends giving in memory of someone they loved dearly.

Gifts in Wills are of great significance for our charity. Leaving a gift ensures we can continue supporting the future of our hospitals, the staff and the clinical care they aim to provide for years to come, protecting and enhancing the lives of future generations.

We hope you share our vision.

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"100% of your donation will go
towards over and above the core
Trust NHS services.

None of your donation will ever be
used to replace Trust NHS services"



Who we are

The Worcestershire Royal Hospital The Alexandra Hospital, Redditch and Kidderminster Hospital are a group of three hospitals working together under the umbrella of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Charity, registered charity number 1054612.

We put patients first in everything we do, by supporting the services of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust.

Since 1996, the impact of our fundraising has supported patients, families and staff, making a huge difference to their lives when it's needed most.

Our appeals are ran by Nurses, Doctors, Staff and Volunteers of the Trust, with the generous support of our patients and the communities of Worcestershire.

The charity has raised over £10 million since its inception, and with the ever challenging pressure on services, now more than ever the work of the charity is vital.

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What we do

We work with the Worcestershire Hospitals NHS Trust Divisional, Directorate and Specialist teams to identify and put plans in place to provide financial support through voluntary donations and legacies towards projects supporting the Trusts' Clinical Services Strategy.

Our charity priorities focus on appeals where our outcome and impact can be put into action by the Trust.

We collaborate with the Trust and other relevant service providers and charities towards supporting some of the following key areas below;

- Urgent& Emergency Care
- Integrated Care
- Acute and Specialist Planned Care
- Patient Wellbeing
- Research & Development
- Improvements to our buildings & facilities



How your Gift plays a vital role

Gifts in Wills from our supporters make an enormous difference to the Charity, no matter how big or small they have made an impact on many areas of our hospitals, serving a population of over 600,000 people in Worcestershire and surrounding counties.

Gifts in Wills account one in every six programmes we complete. They are vital to accelerating our progress, planning, and helping us to fund and make an impact on the care for future generations.

As we receive no funding from the government, 100% of our work is funded by your support.



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£2,000 Specialist advanced clinical training



£5,000 New birthing pool



£10,000 New ECG machine



£15,000 New ultrasound equipment



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Things to consider when making your Will

Why do I need a Will?

We spend our lives working to provide for our loved ones and ourselves. You may have a house or flat (in the UK or overseas), shares, savings or investments, as well as your personal possessions.

All of these assets are your 'estate'. With an up-to-date Will, you can have peace of mind that the people and causes that matter to you have been looked after the way you choose.

Why you should consider making a Will?

Leave your assets to the people and causes you love most. Without a Will expressing your wishes, your whole estate could end up belonging to the Crown or the Government.

Write a Will to keep control to ensure your assets are dealt with correctly, giving you peace-of-mind that there will be no legal disputes after you've gone and protect your assets and help reduce the impact of inheritance tax.

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Why is it important to make a Will?

Your Will tells everyone what should happen to your money, possessions and property after you die (all these things together are called your 'estate'). If you don't leave a Will, the law decides how your estate is passed on – and this might not be in line with your wishes.

It's easy to make a Will – and it will save your family unnecessary distress at an already difficult time.

Four reasons why you need a Will

1. A Will makes it much easier for your family or friends to sort everything out when you die – without a Will the process can be more time consuming and stressful.
2. If you don't write a Will, everything you own will be shared out in a standard way defined by the law – which isn't always the way you might want.
3. A Will can help reduce the amount of Inheritance Tax that might be payable on the value of the property and money you leave behind.
4. Writing a Will is especially important if you have children or other family who depend on you financially, or if you want to leave something to people outside your immediate family.



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The Alexandra Hospital Wellness Garden Appeal

Across the UK with support from charities and staff bringing in donations, hospitals are going the extra mile to provide a stimulating environment for their patients.

The Wellness Garden project is designed to support dementia patients, and people with a mental health condition to reduce their anxiety and distress and help their overall mental wellbeing while visiting or receiving treatment the Alexandra Hospital, Redditch.

Our aim is to transform the currently unused central courtyard in the Alexandra Hospital into the Wellness Garden and provide an environment for our patients with dementia, a mental health condition or with frailty with a place of tranquility to share with friends and family to help reduce anxiety, distress & help their overall mental wellbeing.

A place to provide access to fresh air in a safe, relaxing, less formal environment and where hands on information on local services for relatives living with dementia or a mental health condition.

A place for our patients to be engaged in meaningful activities & mental stimulation, with stimulating activities and community volunteering.

The appeal launched in January 2020, needs to raise £150,000 and will be loving looked after by local volunteers and donations for many years to come.



The Worcestershire Royal Hospital Bereavement Suite Appeal

Becky Yarranton and her partner Paul Dancyger, from Stourport-on-Severn, supported the campaign to create the new Bereavement Suite in the maternity unit at Worcestershire Royal Hospital following the stillbirth of their son Henry.

Over £60,000 was raised to fund the suite that provides a private space for parents who have experienced the tragedy of a stillbirth or the loss of their baby post-birth, where they can begin to grieve the loss of their baby.

It is an addition to the existing bereavement facility – the Fay Turner Suite – which also benefited from a refurbishment. The funds went towards converting an existing room in the maternity department into a suitable space which will include a kitchen area and access into the memorial garden, as well as fixtures and furnishings "This is a space for their family to see Henry, and for us to say goodbye to him," Becky said.

"We stayed for two days – although at all times it was made clear that we could stay as long as we wanted to. It meant so much to us that our family could come and see Henry, and the staff couldn't do enough for us." Paul added: "The suite gave us some privacy to be with our loved ones, away from the busy atmosphere of the hospital. Henry was brought to us in a cuddle cot - he was perfect, just like his older brother Max.

Then when the time was right we said our goodbyes. Without those two days we'd have nothing to remember him by. Thank you to the staff at the hospital who were so compassionate and caring. It can't heal the pain but it helped build real memories."



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How to leave a Gift in your Will

Making or updating an existing Will is easy to arrange and can make a lasting difference to our work.

You can choose to support Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Charity (registered charity no. 1054612) and your support will help where it is needed most, or support a specific ward or area of work in our Hospitals.

We know and respect that your Will is a private matter, but by letting us know that you've included us, you can help us better plan for the future and we'd love the chance to say thank you.

Please be rest assured that any information you share with us will remain confidential and is not legally binding.

Gifts in Wills are exempt from inheritance tax and if you choose to leave 10% of your estate to charity, inheritance tax can be reduced from 40% to 36%.

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What happens if I don't make a Will?

If you do not have a Will the government will decide who inherits your possessions, property and money.

Who inherits your estate will be decided by the Law of Intestacy (1925) and as you can imagine they are unlikely to divide your assets in the way you would choose.

Under the Law of Intestacy if you are unmarried and have no close relatives your Estate will automatically pass to the Crown (government) if there is no valid Will in place.

By making a Will you can decide exactly who gets which assets and how much. This could be almost anything from personal belongings to pets or property.

You will also help avoid unnecessary arguments amongst family members or relatives that can arise when a deceased person's wishes are unclear.



How you can make or update your Will?

Making or updating a Will can be simple and straightforward. If you already have a Will, you may need to update it if your circumstances change.

You may change your Will as often as you wish. If you want to make changes, this will require a new Will. Minor changes can be effected by means of a 'codicil'. This is a legally binding amendment to the Will, which makes the appropriate alteration but confirms that the rest of the Will remains valid.

In no circumstance must you attempt to change your signed Will by crossing out a section or simply writing in a new provision. Your Will is automatically declared void if you get married or re-married (except you live in Scotland). If you want to add other people or charities to your Will you can change your Will.

Using solicitors is usually the best way to write and/or update your Will to ensure it is accurate, legally binding and that it truly represents your wishes.



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If you do not have a solicitor you can find one through The Law Society or if you are choosing to leave a gift to Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Charity we have a number of local solicitors that we work with.

Remember to ask them to confirm their fee for writing your Will. They often charge a fixed rate for Will writing rather than an hourly rate. This should be clearly explained in their letter of engagement.

Draft Clause Wording

If you do decide to leave us a gift in your Will, we are incredibly grateful. Here's some advice on how you and your solicitor should word this.

Residuary Bequest

"I leave x% of the residue of my estate to Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Charity
1st Floor, 3 King's Court Worcester WR5 1DD
registered charity number 1054612.

Pecuniary Bequest

"I leave the sum of £..... to
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Charity
1st Floor, 3 King's Court Worcester WR5 1DD
registered charity number 1054612.

6 simple steps to help you make your Will

- Make a list of your assets and estimate their value. Remember to include the value of your home, financial assets (deducting credit card debts, mortgage, loans and any other debts) and personal possessions. Keep in mind that if you're married, each spouse makes a separate Will. You can leave only your share of assets you own jointly with your spouse. You can use the checklist on page 10 to help put your list together.
- Decide who you would like to remember in your Will. For most people, it isn't hard to decide who gets what. Make a list of people and organisations (such as charities) you wish to remember in your Will and consider how you would like to divide your estate between them.
- Choose an executor(s) to handle your estate. Every Will must name someone to serve as executor, to be responsible for carrying out your wishes that are set out in your Will. Make sure that you discuss this with them so that they are willing to be your executor. You can have up to four executors so it might be good idea to have more than one just in case one is unavailable when needed.
- Find a Solicitor to prepare your Will.
- Sign your Will in front of witness. After making your Will, you'll need to sign it in the presence of at least two witnesses, who must then also sign it in your presence. Your witnesses cannot be people who benefit from your Will; who are married to people who will benefit; or your executors. If they are, they will lose their right to the inheritance. Make sure that beneficiaries are not in the room when your Will is signed.
- Store your Will safely. Your Will is an important document. Most people like to leave their Will in the care of their solicitor (there is often no charge) and keep a copy themselves. Tell your executor(s) where your Will is, how to get access to it when the time comes, and give them contact details of your solicitor.

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Making sense of some Legal Terms

Administrators - Those appointed to administer an estate where there is no Will or executor.

Beneficiary - An individual or organisation who receives a gift in a Will.

Bequest - A gift in a Will.

Chattels - Personal property including furniture, furnishings, moveable goods and car.

Clauses - Sections in your Will that deal with different aspects of your estate and add up to ensure your wishes are honoured.

Codicil - A separate legally binding document making a change or addition to your existing Will

Conditional bequest - A gift that will only take effect if a certain event occurs.

Estate - The total value of all an individual's assets at the time of their death, including possessions, property and money.

Executor - One or more people nominated by the Will maker to take charge of their affairs following their death. This can be a solicitor, trust, branch of a bank or personal contact.

Grant of probate - A court document confirming the authority of an executor to administer the estate.

Inheritance tax - The government sets the Inheritance Tax threshold for the year and any estate with a value over this amount is subject to tax. Reducing the estate value with a donation to charity can reduce Inheritance Tax.

Intestate - When someone dies without having made a Will or where their Will fails to dispose of all of their estate. The administration of the estate is then governed by the provisions of the Administration of Estates Act 1925.

Legacy - A gift left to a person or organisation in a Will.

Legator (male) / Legatrix (female) - A person who has died and left a gift in their Will

Life interest - A two stage legacy, where the first beneficiary is given the use of an asset (e.g. a house) during their lifetime. After their death, the asset passes to the second beneficiary.

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Mirror Wills - Mirror Wills are identical except that each leaves the same gifts to the other, and each names the other as executor. They are made in the same terms each to benefit the other, with or without other gifts and provisions. Either party can change their mind at any time and make a different Will.

Pecuniary Legacy - The gift of a specified sum of money.

Power of Attorney - A legal document which authorises one or more people to handle another person's financial affairs (including property, shares, money, etc.), either generally or in relation to specific items.

Probate - The legal procedure by which your executor is given the authority to administer your estate. The remainder of an estate after the deduction of tax, debts, specific gifts, pecuniary legacies and the expenses of administration are resolved and your property, cash, etc., is distributed to those outlined in your Will.

Residue - The sum left from an estate when all debts, charges and pecuniary gifts are deducted. **Residuary Legacy** The whole residue, or a percentage share of the residue, can be left as a gift. This is a particularly popular way to leave a gift to a charity.

Specific Legacy - A gift of a particular item, e.g. a piece of jewellery or furniture

Testator (male) / Testatrix (female) - The person making the Will.

Will - A legally binding document giving instructions about what to do with a person's estate when they die.



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