

## Leaving a gift in your will to the Multiple Sclerosis Trust



Making a will is important as it protects your loved ones and ensures that your wishes regarding your estate are carried out after you die. It also provides an opportunity to leave a gift to a charity close to your heart, such as the MS Trust.

Gifts in wills are a vital source of income for the MS Trust. We receive no government funding and yet all the services we provide are offered completely free of charge to people affected by MS, their family and friends. We can only continue to provide evidence-based, accessible publications, our freephone enquiry service, funding for MS specialist nurses and advanced MS champions and education for health professionals because of the continuing generosity of our supporters.

Even a small gift in your will can have a huge impact in supporting the specialist services we provide for people affected by MS in the UK. It is for this reason and the fact that we are committed to improving the lives of people with MS, that we will always encourage people to leave a gift in their will to the MS Trust.

## How do I leave a gift in my will to the MS Trust?

A Will is a legal document and must comply with certain legal formalities. Leaving a gift in your will to the MS Trust need not be complicated and is easier than you might think. Most solicitors can draft a basic will from around £150. The most common types of legacy / gifts include:

- Residuary legacy: a percentage of the remainder or balance of your estate, paid once all expenses and monies to creditors, family and friends have been accounted for.
- Pecuniary legacy: a specified sum of money.
- Specific legacy: a personal or household effect/s, such as - jewellery, a car or property.
- Reversionary legacy (specific, pecuniary or residuary): left firstly to a 'life tenant', for example leaving your house to your daughter for her lifetime, thereafter going to others – such as a charity.
- Contingent gift: a gift that has certain conditions attached.
- Insurance policies and savings: charities can be named as beneficiaries in your life insurance policy
- In-memoriam gift: whilst not a legacy, requests can be made for donations to the MS Trust in lieu of flowers at a funeral.

If you intend to leave a gift in your will to the MS Trust, you must state our charity name, address and charity number clearly, to avoid any discrepancy. We would suggest you have the following details to hand when making your will;

**The Multiple Sclerosis Trust**  
**Spirella Building**  
**Bridge Road**  
**Letchworth Garden City**  
**SG6 4ET**  
**Registered charity no. 1088353**

## How a gift in your will can help

Legacy gifts are exempt from inheritance tax. They also have an incredibly positive impact for the MS Trust as they help to fund the specialist care and support we provide for people affected by MS.

- **MS specialist nurses** - Our MS nurses are usually the main point of contact for someone with MS. They offer direct support and clinical advice, and can connect people to other appropriate services, such as a doctor or a therapist.
- **Advance MS Champions** - The MS Trust estimates that around 40,000 people in the UK have advanced MS. These specialist health professionals work with multidisciplinary MS teams focusing on care for people with advanced MS.
- **Professional enquiry team** - Our enquiry team have a wealth of knowledge about MS and answer enquiries covering the full range of people's experiences with MS. They provide relevant, evidence-based information to support people living with MS.
- **Evidenced based publications** – The MS Trust has a wide range of free books and DVDs on everything from diagnosis and symptoms to living with MS and treatments, accessible via our website, phone, email or post.
- **Training for healthcare professionals** - Our resources help to share innovative practice and develop MS health professionals to gain a deeper understanding of MS specialist care.

Lindsay Lord (centre) advanced MS champion Salford



## What is a Digital Legacy?

If you own or use a computer or a connected device such as a mobile phone or tablet you may want to consider what you would like to happen to the photos, videos or important documents stored on them after you die.

Some devices do not require a security password but many do. It is therefore important to think about who and how each of your devices and your online accounts will be accessed and managed after your death.

Some online accounts will allow you to transfer access to the account. Other accounts allow you to create a backup of the photos, videos, messages and purchased media stored within them.

Each device and online account is different and the support that they will provide you with also varies. The Digital Legacy Associations 'For the Public' section includes a range of step by step tutorials and resources. They also a 'social media will' template that will help you log each of your accounts and share your preferences for them with someone you trust.

More information can be obtained at the Digital Legacy association which supports the general public, healthcare and social care professionals with areas relating to digital estate planning, legacy and bereavement.



### Further useful info:

[www.mstrust.org.uk/wills](http://www.mstrust.org.uk/wills) - for more information and our jargon buster

[www.digitallegacyassociation.org](http://www.digitallegacyassociation.org) – Digital Legacy Association

[www.rememberacharity.org.uk](http://www.rememberacharity.org.uk) – Remember a Charity

[www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax](http://www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax) - Inheritance tax

[www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk) – The Law Society

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) – Citizens Advice Bureau

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