Writing your Will with Maggie’s

Maggie’s
Everyone’s home of cancer care
Making a Will is one of those jobs we tend not to look forward to. But making sure you have an up-to-date Will is really important. If you don’t have one, your estate (the assets such as money and property you leave behind after your death) may not go to the people you want them to. Not having a properly written and updated Will can also mean problems and hardships for your family to sort out.

The good news is that making a Will is easier, quicker and less costly than many people imagine. And at Maggie’s we can help you do it.

This is an introduction to why you might want to write a Will or update your current Will, some things to bear in mind, and how to get started. There’s also information about leaving a gift in your Will to a charity such as Maggie’s.
Why should I make a Will?
Making a Will is important as it makes sure that the things you leave behind go to the people and causes you care about. Without a Will, the things you own are dealt with according to the law, meaning your family, friends and organisations you want to benefit could miss out.

Who can make a Will?
If you live in the UK, you can make a Will if you are 18 or over (12 or over in Scotland).

Do I need to update my Will?
You should review your Will around every five years and after any major change in your life, such as getting separated or divorced, getting married (this cancels any Will you made before), having a child, moving house or if an executor named in your Will dies.

What should I include in my Will?
Your Will should include any property, cash, savings and personal possessions, especially if they have sentimental or monetary value.

Do I need a professional to help me write my Will?
We recommend using a solicitor or professional Will writer to write or update your Will. Although you can legally make a Will by yourself, this is a legal document, so it’s best to consult someone who understands the law.

Can Maggie’s help me write my Will?
Maggie’s offers free Will-writing clinics with solicitors and professional Will writers. The staff at your centre will be able to tell you more.

Will leaving a gift to charity mean I pay less inheritance tax?
If you are liable for inheritance tax, leaving 10% or more to a charity can mean you pay a reduced rate.

Do I have to prepare anything?
No, a solicitor or professional Will writer will tell you everything you need to know, but it may be helpful to give some thought to the following:

- What assets you have,
- Who you might want to leave these to,
- And who you want your executors to be.

If you don’t have your own solicitor, you can find one through the Law Society.
- In Scotland visit www.lawscot.org.uk
- In England or Wales, visit www.lawsociety.org.uk

Some commonly asked questions
Leaving a gift in your Will to Maggie’s

Maggie’s relies almost entirely on voluntary donations. We couldn’t exist without the passion, dedication and commitment of our volunteers, fundraisers and people who choose to leave us a gift in their Will. If you’d like to leave a gift to Maggie’s in your Will, there are a couple of ways you can do this.

1. **A share of your estate**
   Also called a ‘residuary gift’, this is a percentage of your estate once all other legacies and expenses have been settled. It’s the most valuable type of gift because it retains value over time. A gift of 1% of your estate will support families in years to come.

2. **A fixed sum of money**
   Also called a ‘pecuniary gift’, this can be any amount of money.

You can choose to leave a gift to the centre that supported you, to a new centre that’s being planned, or to Maggie’s as a whole. Any gift, no matter what size, will help us to support people through cancer.

Call us on **0300 123 1801** or email **enquiries@maggiescentres.org** to find out more about how a gift in your Will could make a difference.
Any gift, no matter what size, will help people with cancer and their loved ones when they need it most. Over the coming years we plan to invest in three main ways:

1. **Expanding our cancer support** and making sure the support that’s offered in your centre is always free, beneficial and accessible to anyone who needs it.

2. **Investing in staff** so they are on hand to deliver cancer support from the moment of diagnosis.

3. **Opening more centres** at major NHS cancer hospitals so that the life-changing cancer support offered by your centre will be available to more people in the UK, wherever they live.

We understand that a gift in your Will is one of the most precious things you can give us. Whatever you decide, we will take the greatest care to make sure your gift benefits the people and places that are important to you.
Jenni’s gift

Maggie’s supported Jenni and her husband Mel when Mel was diagnosed with incurable cancer. Jenni explains why she decided to leave a gift to Maggie’s in her Will.

Jenni and Mel both received support from Maggie’s Edinburgh throughout Mel’s illness, talking through their fears and anxieties at an incredibly difficult time and finding comfort and reassurance to be able to carry on.

Mel died in 2013, and Jenni continued to visit Maggie’s for support, initially attending a bereavement group and then taking part in regular Tai Chi sessions.

Jenni updated her Will after Mel’s death and decided to pledge to leave a gift to Maggie’s.

Jenni says: “I will never forget Mel’s last visit to Maggie’s and the unconditional support and reassurance we received when we needed it most. Towards the end Mel was desperately ill and for the very first time he admitted to being afraid. At Maggie’s, he was able to talk to Andy, who listened to his fears and concerns and was able to comfort him. Mel asked Andy ‘And what about Jen?’. Without a second of hesitation Andy replied: ‘We’re here for her as long as she wants.’

“It was then that I made the decision to give something back.

“Life, as I had already discovered can be unpredictable, so by leaving a gift to Maggie’s in my Will I knew that whatever happened, it was now in place and would remain so. It is my hope that in the future when someone is affected by cancer in any way and feels scared and overwhelmed, there will be a Maggie’s centre to help them.”
If you’d like to know more about leaving a gift in your Will, have any questions or would like to have a confidential chat about this very special way of giving, please call us on 0300 123 1801 or speak to a member of your centre team

www.maggiescentres.org

“Writing a Will helped me get things straight so I knew my partner and family would benefit from what I leave behind.”  

Jan, Maggie’s visitor