



*Your Guide*  
**TO LEAVING A GIFT  
IN YOUR WILL**



providing *MORE* for our patients

Countess of Chester Hospital **NHS**  
NHS Foundation Trust



WRITE YOUR  
*forever thank you*  
TO AN NHS CHARITY

# Thank you



*A forever thank you*

**IN YOUR WILL CAN CHANGE LIVES FOR YEARS TO COME**

Thank you for asking about leaving a gift to The Countess Charity in your Will.

We hope you'll find this guide interesting and inspirational. Hopefully it also gives you a clear understanding of why the work of our Charity is so very important to our community.

We've also included practical information about how to make and change your Will and the kind of things to consider when writing it.

As you'll see in the coming pages, gifts in Wills are very special to us so we hope you'll join the growing community of our supporters.



**WHY  
LEAVING A**  
*forever  
Thank you*  
**IN YOUR  
WILL IS SO  
PRECIOUS TO US**



**JOIN OUR  
AMAZING  
COMMUNITY  
OF  
SUPPORTERS**

Our Gifts in Wills Vision

To fulfil YOUR wishes and help provide MORE for our patients and their families now and for generations to come

The Countess Charity is proud to be a member of NHS Charities Together, dedicated to helping the NHS go above and beyond.

Leaving a 'Forever Thank You' in your Will can make a huge difference to vital work at the Countess of Chester and Ellesmere Port Hospitals that we support. We respectfully encourage our donors to leave their gifts to The Hospital Fund which is unrestricted and therefore allows us to direct charitable funds where there is the greatest need at a given point in time.

A gift in your Will is just one of the ways that you can choose to support our work. But more and more people are starting to ask us about how they can help us in this way because it costs nothing now. Leaving a gift in your Will no matter how big or small makes a real difference.

We have received some amazing legacy gifts from generous supporters. Gifts in Wills to The Countess Charity do so much to help us support NHS staff, provide research and specialist equipment, and address local health inequalities. So, every single gift is incredibly precious.

# WHAT YOUR

*forever thank you*

# CAN DO

Donations made to The Countess Charity help us provide MORE for our patients and staff at the Countess of Chester and Ellesmere Port Hospitals. We fund projects that make the Hospitals feel less like hospital, provide specialist additional equipment and new technology, and support the families of patients.

## Support for NHS staff

To help staff who are feeling burnt out, anxious or exhausted we have provided for example:

**A quiet/recreational space** for our junior doctors through the refurbishment of the doctor's mess room. The upgraded room provides facilities for cooking, sofa beds for power napping/sleeping, computer terminals, table tennis tables and a TV. The room is now an attractive space where staff can relax and recover between long and busy shifts.



## Support for patients and their families

The following improvement projects were funded by gifts left in Wills to The Hospital Fund and to those restricted to specific areas of our hospitals:

**Vibrant and colourful portable screens** for the children's theatre recovery area to allow more privacy and dignity for our young patients

**Activity boxes** for the benefit of patients with complex needs to help mitigate stress and anxiety

**The Shed** a themed non-clinical environment for the stimulation and relaxation of our patients at Ellesmere Port Hospital

**Wheelchairs** that are up to date and easy for patients and carers to use

**Vein Viewer** device allowing for a better patient experience for those whose veins are difficult to find when having bloods taken

**An additional Electrocardiogram (ECG) machine** for the prompt diagnostic investigation in the diagnosis of heart attacks in our busy Emergency Department

**Intensive Care Unit specialist turning bed** for critically ill patients

**Specialist cardiac equipment** for the Cardio, Respiratory and Vascular (CVR) department for use in clinic.



## *Why your Will* **MATTERS TO YOU**

Your Will may be one of the most important documents you ever write. That's because if you have last wishes, including them in your Will is a great way to be certain they're carried out. A Will is also an excellent place to record your funeral wishes.

Your Will can make sure that the right people get whatever you've decided to leave for them. It's a simple way to carry on looking after loved ones when you're no longer here.

If you die without a Will, the choices you've made may not actually be respected, and your loved ones could be left with a lot of difficult decisions to make, which could lead to considerable distress.

Finally, your Will can also carry on your support for causes that are close to your heart. By including a gift to our Charity in your Will you can write a forever thank you with a gift that will carry on making a difference, long after you're gone.

## THREE TYPES OF *gifts to leave in your Will*

These are the three most common types of gift to leave in your Will...

### 1 **I'd like to leave what's left of my estate**

After you've taken care of your family and friends and paid off any debts or taxes, you can gift either a portion or all of what's left – it's up to you. For example, just 1% of what remains of your estate could make a real difference. Many supporters like this kind of gift because, as a part of your overall estate, it keeps its value over time.

### 2 **I'd like to leave a specific amount**

Another option is to leave a fixed amount of money, which you set aside in your Will. This type of gift is paid out before the residue of your estate is calculated. But over time, inflation can reduce its value and make it less impactful.

### 3 **I'd like to leave a specific gift**

A specific gift is a particular valuable item – like property, shares or a piece of jewellery. With any of these types of gifts, you are free to restrict your forever thank you to a certain type of work we do. But, in fact, if you leave them unrestricted, it means we can use your gift to help where the need is greatest at the time. If you would like to chat about restricting your gift, please email our Legacy Fundraiser ngozi.ikoku@nhs.net or coch.fundraising@nhs.net



## *Gifts in Wills* AND TAX

The good news is that any gifts left to charities are exempt from Inheritance Tax. On top of that, sometimes by including a gift to a charity you can reduce the tax on everything else you leave behind. But Inheritance Tax is a complex and often-changing area of law, so we advise you visit [www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax](http://www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax) for all the latest information and speak to a professional.

# YOUR *Will writing* CHECKLIST



## Step 1

Make a list of your most valuable possessions. Remember to include any property you own, any savings or investments, as well as any valuable items like jewellery or paintings.

## Step 2

Add up what you think they're worth. A rough estimate is all you'll need to help work out what gifts you'd like to make.

## Step 3

Family and friends come first. Start by working out who you'd like to look after and what you'd like to leave them.

## Step 4

Then remember causes close to your heart. Make a list of the charities you'd like to support and think about how you'd like to make those gifts.

## Step 5

Choose executors and write your Will. Many people choose trusted family members as their executors. And there are many ways available to write your Will, from consulting a professional to completing a simple template or using one of a variety of online services that can guide you through the process and verify your document.

It's sensible to keep your Will in a safe place – and to tell your executors where it is. Many professional Will writers and solicitors offer to store your Will. Don't worry if your life or decisions change. It is simple to write a new Will that can change your instructions, or to update your Will using what's called a 'codicil'.

## USE THIS HANDY TEMPLATE TO WRITE

*your forever thank you*

### STEP 1 & 2: List your valuable possessions and estimate their value

1  
2  
3  
4  
5

### STEP 3: List what you'd like to leave to whom

1  
2  
3  
4  
5

### STEP 4: List the charities you'd like to support and your gifts

1  
2  
3  
4  
5

### STEP 5: List your executors

1  
2

## THE WORDING YOU NEED TO USE

*in your Will*



### When you want to leave what's left of your estate

.....  
Subject to the payment of my debts, funeral and testamentary expenses, I give the whole/ \_\_\_\_\_ % of my estate not otherwise disposed of by this my Will to The Countess Charity, Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Liverpool Road, Chester, CH2 1UL Registered Charity No 1050015.

### When you want to leave a specific amount

.....  
I give free of tax to The Countess Charity, Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Liverpool Road, Chester CH2 1LN Registered Charity No 1050015, the sum of £\_\_\_\_\_.

*“We're so grateful to you for considering this way of supporting The Countess Charity. We understand it's a big decision but would like to assure you that a gift left in a Will to our Charity will help us to provide the best care and facilities for our patients now and for generations to come”*

**Jane Tomkinson OBE**

Chief Executive Officer

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01244 366240



Providing **CARE** for our patients

The Countess Charity Registered Charity No 1050015



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Registered with  
FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR