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# WILL POWER

## Katharine House Hospice - A Simple Guide to Making a Will

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A will is probably the most important document you will ever sign in your life and so we urge you to seek professional advice at all times.

### WHY SHOULD I MAKE A WILL?

Nobody wants to think about dying, which is why three out of four of us have not made a Will.

Making a Will is one of the most important things you can do to safeguard your family and ensure that after death YOUR wishes are carried out.

Making a Will means that your loved ones will be secure. It also allows you to mark special friendships and provides an opportunity to remember favourite charities.

It may also allow you to avoid unnecessary taxes on your estate.

Put simply, a will is an effective and simple way to help the people and the causes you care about. The only way you can be certain that your money will go where you want it to go after your death is to make a will and keep it up to date. By taking action now you could divert the money that would be paid in tax to your family or to a charity instead.

### THE FOUR SIMPLE STEPS TO MAKING A WILL

1. Decide what you want to do
2. Choose a good solicitor
3. Choose Executors
4. Keep your will up to date and in a safe place

There are some of the ways you can choose to leave a gift to Katharine House Hospice in your will:

- A **Residuary** legacy – the remainder of your estate, after all your other legacies and commitments have been paid
- A **Pecuniary** legacy – a sum of money, specified in your will.
- A **Specific** legacy – a certain item, perhaps some shares or jewellery, stipulated in your will.

Please consider supporting Katharine House Hospice in your will. Your gift will enable our patients and their families to live their lives as fully as possible and will help to provide comfort and support to future generations facing the challenges of an advanced life-limiting condition.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Why make a will and is it expensive?**

By making a will you can ensure that your wishes are followed after your death. Making a will is not as costly as many people think. It **should cost less than £100**.

### **Am I too young to make a will?**

There is no restriction on the age when you can make a will. No one is too young or too old to do so.

### **What can I do if I don't have many possessions to leave?**

All donations, whatever their size, really do help. Besides, you may think that you don't have much to leave but when the value of your home and contents, bank or building society accounts and pension benefits are all taken into account, you may be surprised by how much you have to offer.

### **Are there any taxes paid on a gift which I leave to a charity?**

No – all gifts to charities are free of Inheritance Tax and Capital Gains Tax.

### **How can I change my will?**

You are free to change your will as often as you like. A simple change, such as adding Katharine House Hospice to the beneficiaries of your will, can be made using a Codicil. This is a legal amendment to a will, which needs to be signed and witnessed in the same way as your will. Your solicitor can give you advice about how to do this.

### **Is there anything else I can do to help through my will?**

If you would like to help without leaving a gift to Katharine House Hospice you can specify in your will that anyone who wishes to make a donation in your memory should make it to Katharine House Hospice.

### **What information about Katharine House Hospice will I need for my solicitor?**

You'll need to take to your solicitor details of our name, address and registered charity number, which are as follows:

Katharine House Hospice, Weston Road, Stafford, ST16 3SB. Registered Charity no: 1011712.

e: [enquiries@khospice.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@khospice.org.uk), t: 01785 254645, f: 01785 247803

## WHAT TO DO NEXT

**If you have not made a will**, you will need to find a solicitor to take you through the process and write one with you. Family and friends may be able to recommend one for you; you can also find a solicitor through your local phone book or Citizens' Advice Bureau. You can also find one via the Law Society websites, see [www.solicitorsonline.org.uk](http://www.solicitorsonline.org.uk).

**If you already have made a will**, it can be altered at any time by adding a signed alteration called a codicil. Please contact your solicitor for further information on how to do this.

If you have any queries, you can contact the Katharine House Hospice fundraising team by calling 01785 254645, or emailing [fundraising@khospice.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@khospice.org.uk). You will find details of local solicitors in the Yellow Pages.