



How to make a will...

and help transform the lives
of babies and children in
the future



Charity reg. nos 208701 and SC039284

Why do I need to write a will?

To be sure your wishes are fulfilled and that your estate is left to the people you want to benefit, it makes sense to write it all down in a will. That way everyone is clear about your intentions – so you can enjoy peace of mind.

How do I write a will?

Here is a simple guide to help you prepare to make a will. In the glossary below we also explain some of the terms used. We recommend that your final will is drawn up by a solicitor. A will is a legal document so it is essential it is prepared by a professional to ensure your final wishes are carried out properly. Before you do this however, there are a few things you need to sort out. This will save you time and money.

1. Make a list of your assets Write down any major liabilities such as loans and mortgages. Then deduct your liabilities from your assets and you'll arrive at the approximate value of your estate before Inheritance Tax.

2. Calculate your Inheritance Tax This is the tax that is paid on your estate when you die, as well as on some assets that may have been given away during your lifetime. Under current legislation, if the estate you leave behind is less than the 'nil-rate' band (which varies each tax year) your beneficiaries will not have to pay Inheritance Tax of 40 per cent. However, if your estate is worth more than this threshold they will have to pay Inheritance Tax on anything beyond the nil-rate band. Gifts or legacies between spouses or to charities are tax-free. So if you are married, your husband or wife will not pay Inheritance Tax on your bequest. **Because Action Medical Research is a registered charity, you could choose to leave us a gift in your will and reduce, and maybe completely avoid, Inheritance Tax.**

Further details of the current tax threshold are available on the HM Revenue & Customs website: www.hmrc.gov.uk/rates/inheritance.htm

3. Choose an executor Executors are responsible for making sure the instructions in your will are carried out, so they should be someone you can trust like your husband, wife or grown up child (the executors can be a beneficiary of your will.) Alternatively, you could appoint a bank or solicitor and a fee will be deducted from your estate.

4. Have your will witnessed When your will is ready you will need two witnesses. All three of you should sign the will in each others' presence. Then keep your will in a safe place eg with your solicitor or bank. Make sure you tell someone where it is kept.

What about my loved ones?

Taking care of those closest to you is the most important reason for making a will. So, if you have young children, decide in advance who will be their guardians. Make sure the people you choose agree to the role. Then you could consider leaving a gift to Action Medical Research from the remainder of your estate. This would only be payable after your family and friends have been taken care of.

Which is the best way to leave a gift?

You can leave a gift in your will to Action Medical Research in three ways, simply choose the one that suits you the best:

- **a residuary legacy** – a percentage of what is left of your estate once all the expenses, debts and specific gifts have been taken out
- **a pecuniary legacy** – a set sum of money, eg £10,000 (the value of this type of legacy can diminish over time due to inflation, and possibly not represent the value you intended it to)
- **a specific legacy** – this is a specific gift, such as a house.

What if I've already made a will?

You can still add Action Medical Research to your will by writing a codicil. This is a form you fill in with the changes you wish to make. Simply sign the form in front of two witnesses, and place it with your existing will. You can use a solicitor if you wish.

If you have married, separated or divorced or re-married **after** making your will, you will need to make a new one to ensure your wishes are respected.

Marriage normally renders any existing will null and void (Scottish law is different).



Please help babies and children by leaving a gift in your will to Action Medical Research.
Thank you.

Glossary

Beneficiary or legatee – someone who benefits from a will.

Codicil – a document that adds to or alters a will.

Estate – the total value of everything a person owns when they die.

Executor – person chosen to carry out the wishes written in a will (executor nominate in Scotland).

Intestacy – when a person dies without having left a legal will.

Legacy or bequest – a specific amount of money or item mentioned in a will.

For a friendly, informal discussion of the options open to you please contact Jane Tarrant, Legacy Manager on **01403 327414** or email jtarrant@action.org.uk



Please help us to:

- tackle premature birth and treat sick and vulnerable babies
- help children affected by disability, disabling conditions and infections
- target rare diseases that together severely affect many forgotten children.

There are currently over 70 research projects underway thanks to Action Medical Research funding, building on our track record of life-changing discoveries. This is a major financial commitment, and as a charity that relies entirely on voluntary support we need the help of people like you in years to come to maintain this vital work.



Action Medical Research

is the leading UK-wide medical research charity dedicated to helping babies and children.

Once known as Action for the Crippled Child, Action Medical Research has helped save thousands of young lives and changed many more.

For nearly 60 years we've been funding vital medical research for babies, children and young people all over the UK. Because Action Medical Research funds research into such a broad range of childhood illnesses and disabilities, you can be sure that whenever in the future your gift is received, it will be used to tackle the most critical conditions affecting babies and children at that time.

Action Medical Research relies entirely on donations, so please consider including us in your will. We cannot fund new medical breakthroughs without your help.

Thank you.



YES – I wish to help build a better world for future generations with a gift to Action Medical Research in my will

If you plan to support Action Medical Research in your will please let us know by completing and returning this form. It is not binding in any way, but will simply let us know your intentions so that we can plan ahead.

- I have already left a gift in my will to Action Medical Research
- I intend to remember Action Medical Research in my will

Name

Address

..... Postcode

Date

On behalf of the future generations you will be helping, thank you.

Please return this completed form in an envelope to:
Jane Tarrant, Action Medical Research, Freepost CY252,
Horsham, West Sussex RH12 2BR.

Data Protection

We would like to contact you to keep you informed about the important work that we do and to advise you of the different ways in which you can help Action Medical Research. Please contact us on 01403 327497 if you would prefer not to receive this information.





Help

save tiny lives with a gift in your will

Each year in the UK around 70,000 newborn babies need special care and around 60,000 babies are born prematurely. Tragically more than 25 premature babies die each week because they were born too soon.

The effect on the families is devastating. We want to make a difference in tackling premature birth and treating sick and vulnerable babies.

A gift in your will can help us continue to invest in this vital research to help save babies lives.

Thank you.

