

Weldmar Hospicecare

A guide to writing your Will.

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Registered Charity No. 1000414

weldmarhospicecare.org/wills



Thank you for finding out more about leaving Weldmar Hospicecare a gift in your Will. Once you have planned financially for family and friends, you can help us secure outstanding care to local people with a life limiting illness, and their loved ones, for generations to come. That care, which provides comfort, dignity, and support at the most difficult of times, takes place in patients' own homes across Dorset as well as our Inpatient Unit in Dorchester. We truly value the support of everyone who helps us make this happen.

Caroline Hamblett, CEO

Contents

Leaving an affordable gift in your Will 3
Write a Will for free with Weldmar 4
Our promise to you 5
Frequently asked questions 6
Will writing 7
Suggested wording to help you make your gift .. 8
Contact 9

Weldmar Hospicecare is an independent, local charity that provides specialist care to adults who have a life limiting illness, and we support their loved ones throughout life's most difficult journey. Every year, we care for almost 2,000 people across Dorset, in the comfort of their own home, in care homes and community hospitals, and at our own Inpatient Unit in Dorchester.

All of our care is provided for free, and 4/5ths of the cost is funded by our Dorset community, and it is only thanks to you that we are able to provide our services to everyone who needs them.

Gifts left to us in Wills help to ensure the future sustainability of our care, ensuring we are here for generations to come.





Leaving an affordable gift in your Will to Weldmar Hospicecare makes more difference than you realise...

Gifts in Wills fund the care costs of one in every three people we support. People like Mike.

Mike and Angie Jackson were watching the Beach Motocross in Weymouth when they encountered Weldmar Hospicecare for the first time. The couple had recently moved to the coast to prepare for retirement. However, the move coincided with the devastating news that Mike's kidney cancer had become terminal.

"I was really worried about how I was going to die," Mike says. "We were in a café having a cup of tea when we saw Weldmar's Community Outreach Vehicle over the road. I met Fran, and told her about my fears and she was so reassuring. It was a wonderful encounter."

Mike requested a referral to Weldmar from his GP the next day, and was quickly under the care of the Specialist Hospice at Home team. Weldmar Community Nurse, Lucy, became a regular visitor, focusing on managing Mike's pain. "Lucy is brilliant. If there's something we don't know, we know we can ask her. One thing was a prescription that I had to get on repeat every five days. She made a call and we then had a month's worth in one go, which really took some pressure off."

When Mike's pain became too difficult to manage at home, Lucy arranged for him to stay at Weldmar's Inpatient Unit. This transformed Mike and Angie's understanding of what hospice care is.

Angie says: "People just kept coming into the room, introducing themselves and saying what they could offer, so you found out quite quickly that so much support was available without having to search these things out for yourself".

The couple were surprised by the breadth of support, including input from an Occupational Therapist, and reflexology to aid Mike's pain. Mike says, "What was really good was that the doctors listened to me, and explained things. They made changes to my medication, but I felt I was part of it, I wasn't just a patient being given the drugs they prescribed."

There were even moments of unexpected joy, such as a visit from two donkeys in Christmas outfits. "The donkeys were brilliant!" Mike says, "and a little bit of happiness like that is absolutely wonderful. I thought it was an amazing place."

"We thought that hospices were places you would go for a restful death," Angie told us: "I knew that there was counselling on offer, but we didn't have a clue about these other things. It was also a very welcoming place for our family." Mike says, "When you hear the word 'hospice', it's quite a scary thing. But hospice care is a way of making the time you've got left better."

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Registered Charity No. 1000414

weldmarhospicecare.org/wills

Write a Will for free with Weldmar Hospicecare

Weldmar Hospicecare

NATIONAL FREE WILLS NETWORK

Farewill

1. With a solicitor

Weldmar Hospicecare has partnered with the National Free Wills Network to offer you the chance to write or update your simple Will, completely free of charge, with a local solicitor.

There are over 900 solicitors involved in the network, and once you've completed your self-referral form below, you will receive a pack in the post that lists participating law firms in your area for you to choose from and arrange an appointment with.

Complete self-referral form online or get in touch with our Legacy Officer, Sarah Wilson at **wills@weld-hospice.org.uk** or call **01305 261800.** Start today at **weldmarhospicecare.org/wills**

By using our free will writing service, you're under no obligation to leave a gift in your Will. However, we hope that, after providing for family and friends, you may consider remembering the charity in this special way.

2. Online or over the telephone

Write your simple Will easily, safely and for free online with our partner, Farewill. They'll take you step by step through the simple process. When you're done, your Will will be checked by a solicitor. (This service is only available in England and Wales).

Every gift left in a Will helps Weldmar Hospicecare continue providing outstanding specialist end of life care for patients and support for their loved ones across Dorset. A gift of any size could make a lasting difference and help ensure this vital care is available for years to come.

Gifts in Wills already help fund the care of one in three patients across Dorset and play a vital role in helping the charity plan for the future.

Find out more and start the process of writing or updating your Will now.

Our promise to you

If you choose to leave a gift in your Will to Weldmar Hospicecare, thank you. In return we promise the following:

We promise to always respect the love you have for your friends and family, knowing they are central to every decision you make.

We promise to recognise that leaving a gift is a deeply personal decision, made with thought and care.

We promise to use every gift wisely and responsibly, ensuring it makes a lasting difference.

We promise to be open, honest, and available whenever you want to talk to us.

We promise that your kindness will live on, creating a brighter future and leaving a legacy of care for generations to come.

If you have any questions or would like to talk to a member of our team about any aspect of leaving a gift in your Will, please contact wills@weld-hospice.org.uk, or call 01305 261800.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I leave a gift in my Will to Weldmar Hospicecare in memory of someone special to me?

Yes, of course. Leaving a gift in your Will to Weldmar is a wonderful and enduring way to remember a loved one. Your generous contribution, made in their name, will create a lasting legacy of care and support for our patients and their families in the future. We will ensure their name is forever associated with your gift.

Why should I write a Will?

Making a will is not just about sorting out your finances. A Will ensures that your final wishes are clear, and that your possessions and property are going to the right place, and the family and children you leave behind are looked after.

What happens if I don't make a Will before I die?

This is a common question, and one that is very pertinent today with so many multi-faceted family relationships, and the fear of a loved one or close friend missing out.

If you die without a valid Will your estate is distributed under the existing Intestacy Law. This has a strict order of the direct family members who can inherit. Therefore, unmarried partners, step-children and friends would be excluded. Writing your Will ensures that your wishes are met.

How do I prepare for writing or updating a Will?

Before visiting your solicitor, or making your Will online, it's a good idea to prepare.

Think about: What it is you own; Who you want to remember in your Will; The two people (executors) who will carry out the wishes in your Will; How you would like to leave a gift to a charity, such as Weldmar. If you have already written your Will, it's a good idea to review it every five to ten years to ensure it still reflects your wishes.

What kind of gift can I leave?

Your gift can be as large or small as you like. There are three main ways of leaving a gift.

1. A percentage of what you leave behind. This could be anything from 1% to 100%.
2. A fixed cash gift. This could be any amount you choose, such as £500, £1,000, or £100,000 – it's up to you.
3. An item you own. This could be anything from a piece of jewellery, a classic car, or even a property.

What if I already have a Will but now want to include a gift to Weldmar?

While many aspects of your Will may remain the same as you go through life, some situations may change prompting you to make alterations – such as considering leaving a gift to charity.

If you already have a will but now want to include a gift to Weldmar, you can do so by choosing to write a Codicil, which is simply an addition to an existing Will instead of rewriting it completely.

Weldmar can provide you with this form if you wish to include us in your existing Will. It can be downloaded from our website, or you can contact Sarah Wilson at **wills@weld-hospice.org.uk** or **01305 261800.**

Will Writing

(common words and phrases explained)

Assets: Property, money, savings, investments, household goods, car – anything that belonged to the deceased person.

Beneficiary (also Recipient): Anyone, person or organisation, who receives funds or property from a Will.

Bequest: A gift left in a Will that is not land or buildings (e.g. furniture, antiques, art).

Chattels: Property (other than freehold land) which includes leasehold interests and tangible goods. Personal chattels would include contents of the home, such as clothes, jewellery, personal belongings, furniture, garden items, vehicles and pets.

Codicil: An addition or change made to an existing Will. It has to be signed and witnessed in the same way as a Will and should be kept with the Will.

Estate: All the possessions of the deceased person, including houses, property, cars, investments, money and any other personal belongings. The net estate is what the legacies will be paid from – e.g. The assets minus any debts or financial liabilities.

Executor/Executrix: The person(s) or organisation appointed in a Will to administer an estate. This can be a relative, a friend or a solicitor. You can appoint several people.

Inheritance Tax: The tax that has to be paid when the total value of the deceased person's estate is more than the current Inheritance Tax threshold. NB: The current personal allowance before tax becomes payable is £325,000 – but this could change.

Inheritance Tax Threshold: The tax-free amount allowed before any Inheritance Tax is payable – currently £325,000. The rate of tax payable above that amount is 40%.

Intestate/Intestacy: This is the condition of the estate of a person who dies without having made a valid Will. The estate would be distributed according to the rules of the existing Intestacy Law.

Liabilities: Any debts that need to be settled following a person's death.

Life Interest: This allows for the use of an asset for the period of someone's life (or a specified time period) e.g. someone can be left a Life Interest in a property so that they can live there as long as they want (or until the end of the specified time period) and the property could not be sold until the Life Interest has ended.

Legacy: A gift of money (usually a specific amount) that is left to a person or an organisation, such as a charity, in a person's Will.

Mirror Wills: This is when a husband and wife, or partners, make almost identical Wills; e.g. leaving everything to each other should one partner die, or, if both die together, to another agreed beneficiary such as children, other family or friends.

Pecuniary Legacy/Gift: A gift of a fixed sum of money in a Will.

Probate: This is the legal process whereby a Will is 'proved' in court and accepted as a true last testament of the deceased person. It gives the executors of a Will the legal right to deal with the deceased person's assets and property and acts as proof that the executors have the authority they need to handle the estate.

Residuary Legacy/Gift: This can be a share, a percentage or all of the residue of an estate after any specific gifts and pecuniary gifts have been distributed and all debts, expenses and liabilities paid.

Simple Will: A Will that does not have to deal with any complex issues.

Specific Legacy/Gift: A gift of a specific item such as jewellery, a work of art, property, furniture, shares or a memento.

Testator/Testatrix: The 'Will maker' – the person who sets out their wishes as to how their estate should be distributed in their Will.

Will: The legally binding document instructing how someone wishes to dispose of their assets/estate after their death.

Witnesses: A Will (or codicil) must be signed in front of two independent witnesses. They must be present together and must sign the Will themselves. They must not be beneficiaries of the Will in any way.

Suggested wording to help you make your gift

We strongly recommend using a specialist solicitor or Will-writing expert to help create or change your Will. They can advise and support you to ensure that your estate is distributed exactly according to your wishes, and, on how to minimise the impact of Inheritance Tax.

If you do decide to leave a Gift in your Will to Weldmar Hospicecare you will need to provide clear and unambiguous instruction to your executors. Here is some wording we recommend you discuss with your solicitor:

For a residuary (share of your estate) legacy:

"I give *{all / a fraction / a percentage}* of the residue of my estate absolutely to **Weldmar Hospicecare, Herringston Road, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2SL, Registered Charity Number 1000414,** to be applied to Weldmar Hospicecare for its charitable purposes, and I further direct that the receipt of the Hon. Treasurer or any other proper officer of Weldmar Hospicecare for the time being shall be sufficient discharge to my trustees."

For a pecuniary (cash) legacy:

"I give to **Weldmar Hospicecare, Herringston Road, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2SL, Registered Charity Number 1000414,** absolutely, the sum of *{amount in figures, amount in words}* to be applied to Weldmar Hospicecare for its charitable purposes, and I further direct that the receipt of the Hon. Treasurer or any other proper officer of Weldmar Hospicecare for the time being shall be sufficient discharge to my trustees."

For a specific gift:

"I give to **Weldmar Hospicecare, Herringston Road, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2SL, Registered Charity Number 1000414,** absolutely, *{write in here whatever you wish to give}* to be applied to Weldmar Hospicecare for its charitable purposes, and I further direct that the receipt of the Hon. Treasurer or any other proper officer of Weldmar Hospicecare for the time being shall be sufficient discharge to my trustees."

Support Weldmar Hospicecare safely

No matter how you choose to support Weldmar Hospicecare, please remember to include our unique registered charity number: **1000414.** This simple step will ensure that your generous gift reaches us safely, helping us to continue providing our vital end-of-life care and support. Thank you!

Sarah is here to help.

Sarah Wilson is Weldmar's Legacy Officer, who can discuss leaving a gift with you, or provide any further information you might require. We would be pleased to help.



To get in touch:
Call Sarah on 01305 261800
Email wills@weld-hospice.org.uk

or write to:
Sarah Wilson
Weldmar Hospicecare
Herringston Road
Dorchester DT1 2SL

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Registered Charity
No. 1000414

weldmarhospicecare.org/wills