



**LEUKAEMIA  
& LYMPHOMA NI**

*Will*  
**YOU**

**Help us beat blood cancer?**

Your guide to leaving a gift in your will

## Leave a gift in your will to Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI

and you will be making a lasting legacy that will help fund groundbreaking research and bring real life-changing breakthroughs closer for people affected by blood cancer.

Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI is the the only charity in Northern Ireland dedicated to blood cancer research.

Our mission is to improve survival rates and quality of life for all blood cancer patients, by supporting clinicians, scientists and students in NI, researching these diseases.

*"We are a small, efficient organisation that takes pride in the local and global impact of our research"*

Prof Ken Mills, Chair of Experimental Haematology, Queens University Belfast



*"Almost ten years ago my daughter Catherine was diagnosed with a rare form of leukaemia, she died just one week later. I wanted to do something about this disease, I wanted to ensure other families didn't lose a loved one like we did."*

*The key to improving patient outcomes is research, Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI is the only charity in Northern Ireland that funds the science that aims to deal with these cancers once and for all."*

Richard Buchanan  
Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI Chairman



LLNI scientists are experts in their field and with their research, they aim to understand how the disease develops, better methods of treatment and ultimately improve the outcome and quality of life for all patients affected by leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma and other related conditions.

Together we can improve outcomes and quality of life for all blood cancer patients.

## **Having a Will that is up to date and prepared professionally is really important.**

It makes sure that you are in control and that your wishes are carried out after you pass away. It is your way of making sure that the people and causes that you really care about are looked after.

Our 'Will You' guide will help. Whether you are thinking about writing your first Will or are amending your existing Will, it does not have to be a difficult or expensive process.

Some people believe that their estate will automatically pass to their spouse, partner, or children. Sadly, that is not the case. If you die without an up to date and valid Will you are considered by the state to be 'intestate.' This means that the law decides who inherits your property, money and belongings.

These rules can be very strict - for example, they do not provide for stepchildren. Also, unmarried partners do not currently have an automatic entitlement. This means that they must apply to the court to inherit your estate. Whether or not an unmarried partner receives anything is at the discretion of the court.

**We hope that you will find this guide helpful.  
It contains the following information:**

- **Preparing to make your Will**
- **Information on things you need to consider when beginning to make or update your Will.**
- **Assets and liabilities**
- **A checklist to prepare before you visit your solicitor.**
- **Types of gift**
- **Different ways that you can divide the assets in your Will.**
- **Leaving a legacy**
- **Information - what to do if you want to leave a gift to charity in your Will.**
- **Contacts**
- **Information about the Law Society NI, and how you can find a solicitor to prepare your Will.**

## Preparing to make Your Will

It is generally straightforward to prepare or amend your will. It does not have to be complicated.

Our recommendation is that you use a solicitor to help prepare your Will. This will ensure that it is accurate, legally binding and ensure that your wishes are fulfilled. To find a solicitor you can contact the Law society NI for advice at [www.lawsoc-ni.org](http://www.lawsoc-ni.org)

You may need to update your will – if for example you get married or re-marry, your Will automatically becomes void. You may want to add children or grandchildren to your Will, add extra organisations or charities to your Will.

You are advised to review your will every few years to make sure it still reflects your wishes, particularly if there are any significant changes in your life.

To ensure that changes to your will are legal and validated your changes must be carried out using a legal document, a codicil or if you prefer you could make a new Will. Failure to do so may result in your changes having no legal effect and could render your existing Will invalid.

### Keeping It Simple - Steps to help you make your Will

Before visiting a solicitor, you should do some preparation. This will save time and may also save you money.

- **List your assets:** Put together a list of your assets / estimated value (see checklist)
- **Record what you owe or are owed:** Write down everything you owe or are owed. Remember to include mortgage repayments, outstanding loans, or payments due. This will help you establish the true value of your estate.
- **Who will benefit:** Think about who you would like to benefit from your Will. Write down a list of those people and organisations/charities that you would like to benefit and how you would like to share your estate.
- **Choose your executors:** You can appoint between 1 and 4 people (executors) to be responsible for ensuring that your wishes are carried out. These can be family members, friends or you can ask a solicitor. Once you have agreed with your executors then you are ready to meet with your solicitor to prepare your Will.
- **Make sure it's signed:** Once you have written your Will, you will need to get it witnessed and signed. Your witnesses cannot be people that stand to benefit from your Will. Nor can they be married to someone that will benefit.
- **Keep it safe:** Once written and signed make sure the Will is kept in a safe place. You can leave it with a solicitor, legal advisor and keep your own copy in a safe place. Make sure your executors know where to find it.

## Your Estate - assets and liabilities

You will need to work out the value of your assets. That could be your home, savings, any investments you may have, personal items or any savings you have.

You will also need to work out your liabilities. That would include any outstanding bank loans, credit card bills. If you take the total value of your assets and subtract the value of your liabilities, that will give you a clearer understanding of the value of your estate.

**Why not use this simple checklist. The value of your assets minus the value of your liabilities will determine the value of your estate.**

### Assets

House - Value	£
Vehicles / car /motorbike / caravan	£
Household contents, furniture, collectibles, antiques	£
Personal items, jewellery	£
Bank / Building Society accounts (current value/balance)	£
Life assurance policies	£
Savings, ISA's, Premium bonds	£
Stocks and shares	£
Possessions - other items	£
<b>Total Value</b>	£

### Liabilities

Outstanding mortgage	£
Credit cards	£
Bank overdraft	£
Outstanding Loans	£
Other outstanding debts	£
<b>Total Value</b>	£

Assets - Total	£
Less total Liabilities	- £
<b>Estate Value Total</b>	£

## Types of Gift

There are different ways of leaving a gift in your will to people, organisations, and charities that you want to support and include in your will.

### Leaving a Cash Gift

You can leave a gift of cash, specifying a sum of money that you would like to gift or you can specify a fixed percentage of the total estate value.

### Leaving a Residuary Gift

You can leave a percentage of your estate value after all other gifts have been made and any debts cleared. Doing that i.e., dividing whatever is left over after other gifts into percentages, will make it less likely that you will need to amend your will at a later stage. The percentage will remain unchanged, but the value of your estate may rise or fall over time. This is why many people leave residuary gifts, a percentage of their estate after all other gifts to charity.

### Leaving a gift to Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI

When making or amending your will please consider leaving a gift to LLNI. It is a very easy way to ensure that you can continue a lifetime of support for a cause and charity that you really care about.

Remember your loved ones – first and foremost. Your will is a way to make sure that your loved ones are taken care of after you die. Leaving a gift to LLNI, you are ensuring that we can continue to fund vital research into the causes and new treatments of blood cancer, helping us to achieve our ultimate goal of beating blood cancer through research.

**Every gift is important to us and every gift will help us make a real difference to people living with blood cancer.**



## How to leave a gift to LLNI

Thank you so much if you have decided to leave us a gift in your will. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated and means a great deal to us. Here is some advice and some words that you or your solicitor can use.

### Leaving a Residuary Gift

I leave X% of the residue of my estate to Leukaemia and Lymphoma NI, PGJCCR, 97 Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 7AE, Registered charity number NIC105452 to be used for the general purposes of the charity. The receipt of the charity Treasurer or other proper officer shall be sufficient to discharge to me executors.

### Leaving a Pecuniary gift

I leave the sum of £XXXX to Leukaemia and Lymphoma NI, PGJCCR, 97 Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 7AE, Registered charity number NIC105452 to be used for the general purposes of the charity. The receipt of the charity Treasurer or other proper officer shall be sufficient to discharge to me executors.

If you would like to leave gift in your will for a specific purpose area of work or project, please contact us to discuss as we are always keen to ensure that gifts of this nature are worded correctly and in line with your wishes. If you would like to leave a gift in this way, please contact us on Tel. 028 9097 2928 or email us at [info@llni.co.uk](mailto:info@llni.co.uk)

### Finding a local solicitor

You may already know a local solicitor who can help you with your will. If not the best way to find an approved solicitor is to contact the Law Society Northern Ireland.

Contact:

**The Law Society of Northern Ireland**  
**96 Victoria St,**  
**Belfast,**  
**County Antrim,**  
**BT1 3GN**  
**Tel. 028 9023 1614**

THE **LAW SOCIETY**  
OF NORTHERN IRELAND



Or visit the Law Society website at [www.lawsoc-ni.org](http://www.lawsoc-ni.org) and view the 'Finding a Solicitor' section.



# **WILL YOU** help us to **beat blood cancer?**

## **Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI**

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