



A guide to  
making a Will and  
including a gift to  
Brain Research UK



The brain is the most complex organ in our body. It weighs just 3lb, yet it controls our emotions, senses and actions. Every single one of them. It is how we process the world around us. So when it breaks down, we break down.

*It doesn't have to be this way.*

There are hundreds of neurological conditions. We fund research to discover the causes, develop new treatments and improve the lives of those affected.

*Our vision is a world where everyone with a neurological condition lives better, longer.*

1971-2021  
**50**  
YEARS OF  
**BRAIN**  
RESEARCH UK



**1 in 6 of us**

has a neurological condition



**More under 40s**

are killed by brain tumours than by any other cancer



**Every 90 seconds**

someone is admitted to hospital with a brain injury



**190,000**

migraine attacks occur every day

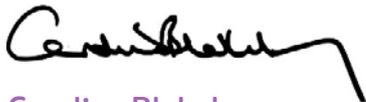
## Thank you for your interest in Brain Research UK and for considering how to include a gift to us in your Will.

Gifts in Will have always been an important funding source for us and, typically, represents a third of our income. By supporting us in this way, you can help to fund essential research.

In this guide, you will find details on how to make a Will and how your gift could make a difference to people affected by neurological conditions.

Any gift, no matter how big or small, makes a vital contribution to achieve our vision of a world where everyone with a neurological condition lives better, longer.

On behalf of us all at the charity and, more importantly, those who benefit from your support... thank you.



**Caroline Blakely**

Chief Executive  
Brain Research UK



# How your gift will help

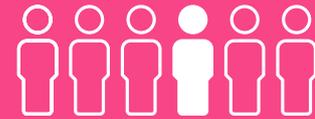
In the UK alone, 11 million people – one in six of the population – live with a neurological condition. What's more, there are hundreds of these conditions.

Since 1971, thanks to our much valued supporters, we have funded wide-ranging research into many different neurological conditions. We have invested over £54 million to help advance understanding of neurological conditions.

We enable scientific and medical advances to improve the lives of those living with neurological conditions, to extend survival in diseases that reduce life-expectancy and, ultimately, to cure and even prevent these conditions.

A gift in Will helps to accelerate the progress of brain research, today and for future generations. We wouldn't be able to fund the best research throughout the UK without the help of people like you.

We hope you'll consider leaving a gift to Brain Research UK in your Will to help ensure future funding of this vital, life-changing, life-saving research.



1 in 6 of us has a neurological condition

“ Thanks to the much-valued generosity of our supporters, we fund a wealth of exciting research that I am confident will lead to real improvements in treatment and care.

In addition, through our investment in PhD studentships and early career researchers, we are helping to ensure that talented young researchers are attracted to, and remain in, the field, paving the way for continued progress.

We are currently focusing on three priority research areas that are under-funded relative to disease burden: brain tumours, brain and spinal cord injury, and headache and facial pain. These conditions affect huge numbers of patients, yet have simply not attracted a sufficient level of funding, meaning that treatments have not advanced.

By leaving a gift in your Will to Brain Research UK, you will help to ensure that vital neurological research continues.



**Professor Kevin Talbot**

MB BS, DPhil, FRCP

Chair, Scientific Advisory Panel

Brain Research UK

# Why should you write a Will?

Having an up-to-date and professionally written Will is extremely important. It tells your loved ones what you want to happen to your money, possessions and property (also known as your estate) after you die. At such a devastating time for your family and friends, a Will ensures that they can carry out your wishes after you pass away.

If you don't write a Will, your loved ones may not have control of how everything is shared. Without a Will, your estate will be shared in a standard way defined by the law, which might not be what you wanted.

A Will can also help to reduce the amount of Inheritance Tax that might be payable on the value of the property and money you leave behind.



A Will ensures that your loved ones can carry out your wishes.

# Leaving a gift in your Will to Brain Research UK

We know that your family and friends come first, and your Will helps to ensure they are taken care of when you pass away.

Once your loved ones are taken care of, leaving a gift in your Will to Brain Research UK is a special way to help shape the future for generations to come.

The research we fund relies entirely on the generosity of our supporters. Whatever their size, gifts in Will are vital to help ensure that world-class research can continue to be carried out in the future, to improve the lives of those affected by a neurological condition.



You can help ensure scientific and medical advances through groundbreaking neurological research.

# Tips for making a Will

## Make a list of what you have in your estate

Things can add up quickly, so make sure you accurately list the value of your estate. This could be anything from the value of your home to your savings and possessions.

## Make a list of what you owe or are owed

This includes mortgage repayments, credit cards, loans or bills. This will give you a much better idea of the total value of your estate, and what is left can then be divided as you wish.

## Decide who you would like to benefit from your Will

Write a list of people and organisations you wish to remember in your Will and decide how to share your estate amongst them. This is particularly important if you are unmarried, in a civil partnership or have step-children.

## Appoint your executors

Executors are responsible for ensuring your wishes are carried out and for managing your estate. Anyone over the age of 18 can be your executor. Usually executors are relatives, friends, banks, solicitors or accountants. You can choose one executor; however, it is recommended to choose up to four in case one of them is unavailable.

Once you have chosen your executor/s you should ask them if they agree to take on the responsibility as they have the right to refuse.

## Visit your solicitor

Visit a solicitor of your choice to have your Will prepared. The section, '*How can we help*' later in this guide, will provide information as to how you can write or amend your Will with the help of our partners.

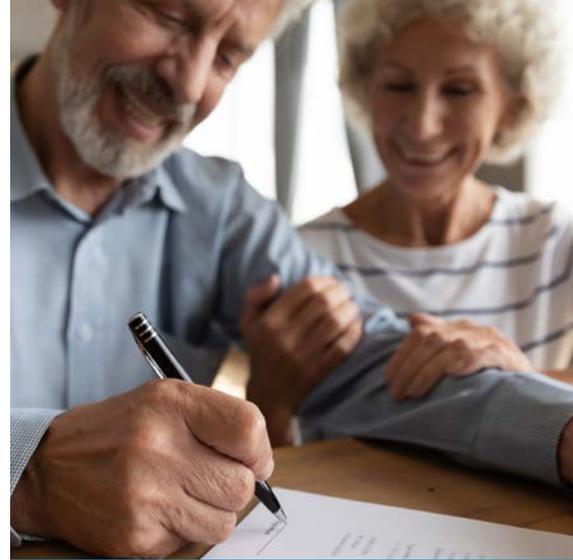
## When you've written your Will

Your Will needs to be signed, dated and witnessed by two people. Your witnesses can't be anyone who benefits from your Will, or anyone who is married to someone who benefits.

You can keep your Will in a number of locations such as at home, with a solicitor or accountant, at a bank, at the Principal Registry of the Family Division of the High Court, a District Registry or Probate Sub-Registry for safe keeping. Be sure to tell the executor/s where it is kept.

## Keep your Will updated

You should review your Will every few years to make sure it reflects your current circumstances, especially if your situation has changed. Moving house, having a child, a change in income, or getting married or divorced can all impact your estate, so it's vital to ensure your Will always reflects your current situation.



It's vital to review your Will every few years to ensure it reflects your current situation.

# Your questions answered

## What if I already have a Will?

If you already have a Will, you may need to change it if your circumstances have changed. You can't do this by amending your original Will if it has been signed and witnessed. Any changes to the original may not form a part of a legally valid Will.

There are two ways to change your Will:

- through **a codicil** (see details right), or
- by making a **new Will**

## Appoint your executors

We recommend appointing a professional executor (for example a solicitor or a bank), as well as a family member or friend to provide advice and assistance to the co-executor/s. Please note, however, that you shouldn't appoint a professional executor without first finding out their fees.

**A codicil** is produced in addition to a Will that includes some changes but leaves the rest of it as it is. This is needed if you wish to make any change to your will, for example increase a cash legacy, include an item you own, or to change a named executor or guardian.

A codicil must be signed by the person who made the original Will and be witnessed in the same way as your Will. The witnesses do not have to be the same as for the original Will. You can add as many codicils as you like to a Will but these should only be used for straightforward changes.

Your solicitor can advise on the appropriate wording to use on a codicil form. If a more complicated change is necessary, it is usually better to make a new Will.

## How should I select a solicitor?

As a Brain Research UK supporter, you can take advantage of our discounted Will writing services outlined later in this guide. Alternatively, you can find solicitors in your area who specialise in Wills, probate law and tax law on the Law Society website: [www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk)

Before appointing a solicitor, we recommend that you confirm what they intend to charge for preparing your Will or acting as an executor.

## What information do I need in order to make a gift to Brain Research UK?

To include a gift in your Will simply give the following details to your chosen solicitor or professional Will writing provider:

**Charity name:** Brain Research UK

**Charity address:** Brain Research UK  
Fourth Floor, 5 Chancery Lane,  
London WC2A 1LG

**Charity number:** 1137560 (England and Wales)

## What type of gift can I make?

Any gift to Brain Research UK will have an impact. Many supporters choose to leave a share of their estate, as this type of gift won't lose its value over time. We've listed below the three most common types of gifts, or legacies, that you can include in your Will. If you're not sure about what kind of gift you would like to give, please talk to your solicitor who will be able to advise you.

**A pecuniary gift** is a fixed sum of money. This may seem like a straightforward option but inflation could affect the real value of this gift, meaning it could be less than you intended. To plan for this, you can either update your Will regularly or link your legacy amount to inflation.

**A residuary gift** means a gift of your estate from what is left after everything else is divided.

**A specific gift** could be anything, but is typically land, property or shares.

“ The more funds given to Brain Research UK, the more incredible scientists can understand the brain and the more people can be helped, today and in the future.

As a result, more help will be available to people like me – and also to those with conditions that are not yet treatable.

A few years ago, I sustained a traumatic brain injury that led to post-concussion syndrome and chronic migraine for over a year.

I am so proud to be supporting Brain Research UK, a charity funding vital work into neurological research for today and future generations.



**Namita**

Supporter

# Our promise to you

We know that your family and loved ones come first when writing your Will. We would like you to consider a gift once they are provided for.

Please tell us if you have left us a gift in your Will so we can thank you for your support and keep you abreast of our essential research funding. However, we will always respect your privacy and you don't have to tell us your decision.

You have the right to change your mind about a gift at any time and you do not need to tell us of your decision.

Any gift you leave will be handled with care, sensitivity and respect.



We will handle your gift with care, sensitivity and respect.

# Help with writing your Will

We have partnered with two Will writing service providers so you can make a simple first Will, or update a current Will, without having to worry about the expense.

You don't have to include Brain Research UK in your Will to take advantage of either service, but we hope you'll consider a gift to us once friends and family have been provided for.

## Farewill

We know that many of our supporters lead busy lives and arranging time to meet with a solicitor isn't always possible. That's why we have partnered with Farewill, the UK's largest Will writer.

The Farewill team of experts will review your instructions and make sure your wishes are clear. As soon as Farewill has contacted you and you are happy with your Will, you can download and print it, and follow the instructions to ensure it is signed and witnessed correctly. If you need any updates to your Will or have any questions, Farewill's team is available to help.

Currently, we have a special offer for our supporters, offering free Will writing through Farewill. To take up the offer please visit:

**[www.farewill.com/bruk-legacy](http://www.farewill.com/bruk-legacy)**

Alternatively, you can call 020 8050 2686, stating that you are a Brain Research UK supporter.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any queries.  
We are here to help you with any and all questions.

 020 7404 9982

 [legacies@brainresearchuk.org.uk](mailto:legacies@brainresearchuk.org.uk)

 [www.brainresearchuk.org.uk/legacies](http://www.brainresearchuk.org.uk/legacies)



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