

Common Questions about Wills

Do I need to make a will?

Making a will ensures that your family and loved ones will be provided for in the way you wish after you die. If you die without a will the government will distribute your estate and there is no way to guarantee that your family and friends will benefit in the way you wanted.

How can I make a will?

We recommend that you use a solicitor to make your will. The Law Society can help you find a local solicitor to aid you in drawing up your will.

<http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/choosingandusing/findasolicitor.law>

You can also find advice about writing a will on the [Advice now website](#).

How can I leave a gift to Relate in my will?

There are different ways in which you can remember Relate through a gift in your will.

- You can leave a fixed amount of money. This is called a “pecuniary legacy”.
- A gift of the residue or part of the residue of an estate known as a “residuary legacy”
- A specific item such as a piece of jewellery or a painting for example.

If you decide to include Relate in your will you should give the following information to your solicitor.

Relate London North West

Building 5
Harrow Civic Centre
Station Road
Harrow
HA1 2XH

Registered Charity Number 1053223

I've already made a will; can I still leave something to Relate?

Yes, if you have made a will and the only change you want to make is to include a gift to Relate you can print off and complete our codicil form below. If you have more changes to make you should talk to a professional advisor or solicitor about making a new will.

What about inheritance tax?

Inheritance tax is paid if what you leave in your will adds up to more than a limit set by the government. For the tax year 2009/10 this is £325,000.

For anything above this amount inheritance tax is paid at 40%.

For each £1 over £325,000 60p will go to the beneficiary and 40p to the government.

BUT charities are exempt from Inheritance tax so any gift you leave to Relate will be given to us tax free.

Codicil Form

If you have already made a will and the only change you want to make is a gift to Relate, you can do so by completing this codicil form.

Simply complete and print this form, sign it in the presence of two witnesses and keep it with your existing will. Alternatively, you may prefer to visit your solicitor who can complete this document on your behalf.

CODICIL TO MY EXISTING WILL

I (full name)

of (address)

(Postcode)

DECLARE this to be the (insert number of Codicil ie 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc) codicil to my will dated.....

I give to:

Relate London North West
Civic 5, Harrow Civic Centre
Station Road
Harrow, HA1 2XH
Registered Charity Number 1053223

The sum of £

The following specific item(s), namely

The whole residue of my estate

The following proportions of the residue of my estate (without the deduction of inheritance tax)

I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer of Relate for the time being shall be full and sufficient discharge of the said legacy. In all other respects I confirm my said Will.

Signed

Date (in words)

Signed by the above names in our joint presence and then by us in his/hers

1st Witness

Name (signature)

Address

Postcode

2nd Witness

Name (signature)

Address

Postcode