

◀ From a world with MS to a future free from its effects ▶

A gift in your will could take us there.

A guide to writing your will

A man with glasses and a beard, wearing a dark cardigan over a white t-shirt, is seated in a black wheelchair. He is smiling and looking towards a woman whose back is to the camera. The woman has dark hair tied back and is wearing a blue jacket. They are in a room with bookshelves filled with books. The man is holding a blue and white cup. The wheelchair has a logo that says "QL PRODUCTS".

**◀ You're the driving force behind our work today
You can take us even further tomorrow ▶**

Robby
Lives with secondary
progressive MS



A gift in your will could take us to a world free from the effects of MS.

Thank you for your interest in supporting our life-changing work. You're part of a community of people bringing us closer to stopping MS. Whether it's through providing information and support, fighting for access to new drugs, or identifying therapies to help people manage their symptoms.

Since 1956, we've invested over £227 million into MS research – and it's really paying off. Scientists are making tremendous breakthroughs in fields like myelin repair and neuroprotection research. And as a charity, we're here to support the 150,000 people in the UK living with MS. Without the gifts left to us in supporters' wills, this simply wouldn't be possible.

The fact is, we rely on gifts in wills. And whether you already have a will, or you're taking the first steps towards putting one together, we're here to support you. Making a will is a positive decision – it makes your final wishes clear. And it means you can support the financial future of the people and causes you care about.

This booklet doesn't contain legal advice, but we hope it'll help simplify making your will. The sections called 'How to get started' and 'Your will writing questions answered' should be particularly helpful. We've included information about our free will writing services. There's no obligation to include a gift to us in your will to use them, but we hope that after you've looked after your loved ones you'll consider leaving something in your will to help stop MS.

I truly believe we're closer than ever to stopping MS. And to a world where no one has to face it alone. By including the MS Society in your will, you can help us get there.


Yours sincerely,
Nick Moberly, Chief Executive, MS Society

Please keep this booklet in a safe place.
If you have any further questions, please
contact us on **020 8438 0828** or email
legacies@mssociety.org.uk

Contents

Why wills matter	5
How to get started	5
The difference your gift could make	7
The kinds of gift you can leave	9
Your will writing questions answered	10

Stopping MS.
Your will could take us there.



“When I think we could one day stop MS, I think about waking up refreshed. Going a whole day without pain or fatigue.”

Bella was diagnosed with MS when she was 15 years old. She lives with her husband, and says the most important things helping her to live well with MS are diet, exercise, and laughter. She hopes to keep living her life to the fullest in future - and that's something a gift in your will can support her to do.

“It means a lot to me that people support the MS Society by leaving a gift in their will. It's a charity that does so much for those of us living with MS.”

Bella hopes these generous gifts will help fund the research that finally puts a stop to MS. She also wants to make sure people in her position continue to have someone to talk to and access to the information they need to fully understand their diagnosis.

Bella
Diagnosed with MS aged 15

Why wills matter

Whatever your circumstances, it's important to have a legally recognised and up to date will. It's the best way to leave a true record of your wishes and make sure the people and causes you care about benefit from what you leave behind.

Of course, if you're thinking about writing or rewriting your will, we understand it's only right that your loved ones come first. But any amount you do decide to leave to the MS Society, no matter how big or small, will make a huge difference to the future for people with MS.

Gifts in wills are something special. Whatever its size, yours will help transform the lives of so many people in the future. It could be you that offers someone the information and support they need to live their best life. It could be your gift that leads directly to developing an effective new treatment. Or you could be the one helping speed up discoveries, by making more studies and research possible, to stop MS.

How to get started

Whether you're writing a new will or updating an existing one, we strongly recommend you work with a solicitor or professional will writer. They'll know how to make sure your wishes are expressed in the right way and remove unnecessary stress for you and your family.

It may seem daunting, but getting your will written is relatively straightforward. Your will writer will take you through all the steps and make sure your wishes are outlined in full.

Before you meet with them, there are a few things you might want to think about. You should:

- **Make a list of assets and estimate their value.**
We've enclosed a checklist that can help you work this out.
- **Make a list of what you owe or are owed.**
This might also be referred to as your 'liabilities' list by a solicitor.
- **Decide who you'd like to benefit from your will, and choose your executor.**
Your executor will take legal responsibility for carrying out the instructions in your will.

Access our free will writing services

We know making a will can be costly. To help, we're offering our supporters a range of free will writing services, through the National Free Wills Network, Octopus Legacy and The Goodwill Partnership. To find out more, please visit mssociety.org.uk/your-free-will



A male researcher with glasses and a white lab coat is working in a laboratory. He is wearing blue nitrile gloves and using a pipette to transfer liquid into a clear petri dish. The background is slightly blurred, showing laboratory equipment and a bright light source. The image is framed by a dark blue diagonal overlay on the right side.

◀ From starting new trials to finding new treatments
A gift in your will could take us there ▶

Researcher, Omar De Faria Jr.
inspecting samples at MS Society
Cambridge Centre for Myelin Repair

The difference your gift could make

In recent years, MS research has made huge leaps forward – and we simply can't afford to stop now. There are convincing and promising signs for the future, but we can only reach our goal to stop MS with your support.

We've come so far in the last 20 years:

- ▶ We've gone from just 3 disease modifying treatments (DMTs) to around 20
- ▶ Increased our knowledge by discovering over 200 genes linked to MS
- ▶ Developed new symptom management treatments
- ▶ Discovered treatments, now licensed, for both primary and secondary progressive MS

As inspiring as the last 20 years have been, there is still so much work to be done. We're funding ways to speed up the development of treatments. And with every new breakthrough, we get closer to the day we'll stop MS.

With new knowledge being gained on how to repair myelin and protect nerves, new projects funded and clinical trials underway, there's real momentum and hope on the horizon – a gift in your will could help us finish the work we've started, together.



"I went into MS research because my mum has MS. She was diagnosed before I was born, when there were very few treatments. It's amazing that in my lifetime we've come so far, and my mum finds it very motivating that there's a new generation of scientists like me working to stop MS. With your support, we could get there."

Mollie McKeon, PhD student
at MS Society Cambridge
Centre for Myelin Repair

“I am so grateful to people who help to fuel research into stopping this life-changing illness.”

Raphael lives in London with his wife Lucy. They have a 4-year-old daughter, Natalya, and 1-year-old son, Asa. He’s lived with MS for many years, and says that the treatment he takes makes a huge difference, helping him get on with his life with less disruption.

“I want to continue being a supportive father and role model to my kids, and husband to my wife. To me, stopping MS would mean certainty over a large part of mine and my family’s future. It would take a huge weight off my mind.”

With the support of gifts in wills, we’ll continue to fund research into MS and search for treatments that can give people like Raphael hope for the future.

Raphael with his wife Lucy, daughter, Natalya, and son, Asa



Choosing a gift that works for you

If you'd like to remember the MS Society in your will, there are four types of gift you can include.

Residuary gift

A gift made from the remainder of your estate after expenses like debts, liabilities and inheritance tax have been taken care of and any specified gifts have been made. You can decide to give a percentage of what remains, or all of it.

Pecuniary gift

Also known as a cash gift, where you decide on the specific amount for the gift.

Specific gift

This means a particular item, such as a house, jewellery, stocks and shares, or the proceeds of a life insurance policy.

A conditional gift

This is a clause included in your will to cover unforeseen circumstances. For example, if the person you intend to leave your estate to dies before you.

How to word your gift

If you decide to include a gift to the MS Society in your will, please use the following wording:

Residuary gift

"I leave x% of the residue of my estate to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, 8 City North Place, London, N4 3FU, registered charity number 1139257 (SC041990 for Scotland) for its general charitable purposes absolutely."

Cash gift

"I leave the sum of £x to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, 8 City North Place, London, N4 3FU, registered charity number 1139257 (SC041990 for Scotland) for its general charitable purposes absolutely."

You can also leave your gift to a particular area of our work or to your local MS group. If you contact us first, we can talk you through how best to word your gift to make sure your wishes are delivered.

Please note that the suggested wording above is not intended to constitute legal advice. For all matters relating to the wording of clauses in your will, please speak to your solicitor or will maker.

Your will writing questions answered

Can I write my own will?

'DIY' wills are easy to get wrong. So we would always recommend getting yours made through a solicitor or qualified will writer, to make sure everything is legally right. You can find a local solicitor by using the search function on the Law Society's website. If you're concerned about fees, we offer our supporters free access to a solicitor, home visits, and will writing services online or by telephone. We've included details of these alongside this guide.

Could making a gift reduce my inheritance tax liability?

Yes (at the time of writing). If your estate is above the Inheritance Tax (IHT) threshold, and you leave at least 10% of the taxable proportion of your estate to a charity, this will reduce your overall IHT liability from 40% to 36%. Also, any gift left to charity in a will is received free of IHT. We recommend you discuss all matters relating to IHT with your solicitor or will maker.

Should I inform you that I've included the MS Society in my will?

It's entirely up to you. This is a very personal decision you've made, but it's lovely for us to be able to reach out and offer you our thanks, as well as keep you updated about our work.

Can I donate my body to medical research for MS?

Yes. You can donate your brain and spinal cord to The MS Society Tissue Bank. It's a vital resource, with donated tissue helping scientists around the world to advance our understanding of MS. To find out more or register as a donor, please visit: mssociety.org.uk/tissuebank

"For me, stopping MS would mean living life without worrying what my MS plans to do next."

Heather was diagnosed with relapsing MS in 2014. She lives with her partner, Sid, and her dog, Willow. Heather told us that her key to living well with MS is prioritising her mental and physical health – through yoga, horse riding, and taking Willow on walks. This is something she hopes to do for years to come.

"MS can make the future a little scary and uncertain. But the most important things in my future are my family, helping others with chronic illnesses, and being happy. I would love to live a life free from the worry of MS."

Leaving a gift in your will to the MS Society could help to make that a reality, and offer thousands of people like Heather a brighter future.





◀ From writing a will to stopping MS

You could take us there ▶

Heather
Lives with relapsing-remitting MS



We're here to help

Thank you once again for your interest in our research and work to support those with MS. If you would like to include the MS Society in your will, we're here to answer any questions you might have about the process. Please contact our friendly gifts in wills team at legacies@mssociety.org.uk, **020 8438 0828** or visit mssociety.org.uk/gifts-in-wills



“Although I haven’t got a lot of money, I want to include a gift to the MS Society in memory of my mum. I want to play my part in helping move MS research forward and make the lives of people with MS and their carers easier.”

Jill, 91, was only 10 when her mum was diagnosed with MS.



Multiple Sclerosis Society is a registered charity in England and Wales (1139257) and Scotland (SC041990), and a company limited by guarantee (07451571)

