



LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Your will can provide dignity, comfort and compassion to local people, when it matters most.

FREE INFO PACK





Dear Hospice Supporter,

Thank you for reading our guide to leaving a gift in your will.

Having an up-to-date will is vital, so the people and causes you care about can be supported in the way you want.

However, too many people overlook what is actually a really simple process. We see far too often the heartbreaking complications that families can go through, when someone does not have an up-to-date will, and it falls to the legal system to work things out.

In this pack, you'll find information about how and when to make your will, as well as some important considerations to think about in advance.

You'll also discover why leaving a gift in your will to North Devon Hospice is so impactful, and how we'll mark your incredible act of generosity with our Forever Stone. We've provided information on the types of gift you could include, and you'll learn how this will change local lives in the future.

1 in 4 people are cared for by the hospice thanks to gifts in wills. That is how vital your support is. Your generosity can help us to wrap people up in what we call the 'hospice hug'. At a time when someone is facing a life-limiting illness like cancer, and the world is shaken for them and their family, your support will provide dignity and comfort every step of the way.

Thank you again for reading, and giving a gift which will be remembered, forever.

Jo Dedes

Jo Dedes
Director of Care, North Devon Hospice

WHY AN UP-TO-DATE WILL IS IMPORTANT

ENSURE YOUR WISHES ARE RESPECTED

A will is your voice. Without a will, the law decides how everything you own is divided, which might not reflect your current relationships or intentions. By keeping your will up-to-date, it will reflect your current wishes.



REDUCING STRESS FOR LOVED ONES

Losing someone is already difficult. Dealing with legal and financial matters can add extra stress. A clear, up-to-date will helps your family avoid unnecessary complications or disputes. It ensures that everything is handled smoothly, making things a little easier for those close to you.

LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN AND PETS

If you have young children, your will allows you to name guardians who'll take care of them if anything happens to you. This is one of the most important reasons to have a will in place, ensuring that your children are raised by the people you trust the most. The same applies to pets - you can specify who should look after them, ensuring they continue to receive the love and care they deserve.



Thinking about the future isn't always easy, but making an up-to-date will is one of the most caring things you can do for your loved ones. It gives you peace of mind that your family, friends and cherished causes will be looked after - in the way you want.

AVOIDING UNNECESSARY COSTS AND TAXES

An up-to-date will can also help reduce the amount of inheritance tax that may be payable. This means more goes to the people and causes you care about, rather than to the taxman.



SUPPORTING CAUSES CLOSE TO YOUR HEART

Many people choose to leave a gift to charity in their will, ensuring your generosity lives on and has a profound impact on thousands of people. Whatever gift you are able to leave (more info in this booklet about how that could work) you'll ensure North Devon Hospice can continue to support patients and loved ones at the end of their life.



REFLECT YOUR MOST RECENT WISHES

It's a good idea to review your will every few years or whenever there's a big change in your life, such as getting married, divorced, having children, new grandchildren or acquiring new assets. Keeping it up-to-date ensures that it always reflects your current wishes. It's also not complicated or expensive to change your will.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

How someone dies lives on forever in the minds of those left behind. Your gift will ensure that this is a positive experience.

Facing a life-limiting illness creates a storm for everyone involved. The patients and families supported by North Devon Hospice are cared for in the way they need, in the place they're most comfortable, for as long as needed, providing a safe and supported port in that storm.

THIS MEANS:

- Care at home, round-the-clock if needed
- Expert symptom management, reducing pain
- Emotional support for the whole family
- Counselling and talking therapies for all ages (as young as four)
- Relaxing complementary therapies
- 24-hour care on our bedded unit
- Bereavement support, for as long as necessary


EVERY YEAR:

- We care for 3,000 people in North Devon
- Our nurses travel 75,000 miles to reach patients in their own homes
- 150 admissions to hospital are avoided, as we help people remain in the comfort of their own home
- We train over 500 other local healthcare professionals, so they can provide outstanding end-of-life care
- Nearly 1,000 people call our 24-hour advice line, to get reassurance for themselves or a loved one
- 800 square miles of North Devon are covered. We care in every town, village, hamlet and farmstead.

1-IN-4

**PEOPLE ARE SUPPORTED
BY NORTH DEVON HOSPICE
THANKS TO GIFTS IN WILLS.**

Without your generosity, the future will look a lot different for so many people.



“Coming to the hospice has
actually given me a new
lease of life. They’ve made
me feel so much better, and
I look forward with a lot of
positivity now.”

Sarah Thomas,
South Molton



YOUR GIFT OF CARE, REMEMBERED FOREVER

Leaving a gift in your will is one of the most special things someone can do. It accounts for an incredible 25% of the care North Devon Hospice provides – that's 1-in-4 people being supported thanks to amazing people like you.

THE FOREVER STONE

To honour this incredible generosity, forever, we have a very special monument given pride of place in front of the hospice.

The Forever Stone stands as a testament to those who choose to remember the hospice in their will. Forged from local slate, it is a reminder of all those who have made an amazing commitment to the people of North Devon, who will rely on the hospice in their hour of need.

The Forever Stone also holds very special secret. Using augmented reality technology, our special iPad app allows people to reveal the names, stories and photos of those who have committed a gift to the hospice in their will. This means your gift will truly live on, forever.

We give everyone the opportunity to be included as part of the Forever Stone in this way, and you can choose what information is included (and when). Your gift can, of course, also be anonymous should you wish.



“It was all very simple to make our will, we just walked into our local solicitors. We’ve always supported North Devon Hospice, so including them in our will seemed like the natural thing to do. The care they provide is wonderful, but we know it relies on all of us in the community to make it happen.”

Philip & Serena Hughes,
Braunton

MAKING YOUR WILL, WHAT TO CONSIDER

First and foremost, you should ensure your will looks after the people you care about. That is why keeping it up-to-date and regularly making changes is so important, as your circumstances in life change.

Once you have taken care of those closest to you, it is an incredible thing to leave a gift in your will to North Devon Hospice. This gift could take many forms, and we've listed the most common here (with their specific legal names):

PECUNIARY GIFT

A fixed sum of money left to our charity. This is one of the simplest ways to give, but due to inflation, the value of the gift may decrease over time. We recommend reviewing your will regularly to adjust the amount accordingly.

RESIDUARY GIFT

A percentage, or the remainder of your estate after all debts, taxes, and other specific gifts have been distributed. This type of gift often has a more lasting impact, as it keeps pace with inflation and better reflects the actual value of your estate.

SPECIFIC GIFT

This is a particular item left to our charity, such as a piece of jewellery, property, shares, or artwork. If you wish to leave a specific gift, please let us know, to ensure we're able to accept it.

REVERSIONARY GIFT

This allows someone you choose to benefit from an asset during their lifetime, with the charity receiving this asset after that person dies. For example, you may want to allow a family member to live in a property, or benefit from stocks and share dividends. However, when that family member dies, these assets will then be left to the hospice. These gifts are more unusual, but are a way of ensuring loved ones can be supported in the shorter-term, with the charity benefitting in the much-longer term.

OTHER IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS:

Appointing an Executor: Choose someone trustworthy to carry out the instructions in your will. Executors can be solicitors, friends or family. Professional executors charge fees, usually deducted from the estate's value.

Deciding on a Guardian: Parents should decide who will be their children's legal guardians if both parents pass away while the children are under 18 (or under 16 in Scotland).

Mirror/Joint Wills: These are two separate wills, often used by spouses or partners, that outline identical wishes.


Inheritance Tax Rates: The standard rate is 40%, applied to the portion of the estate above the threshold. However, leaving 10% of the taxable estate to charity reduces the tax rate from 40% to 36%, potentially increasing the amounts passed to other beneficiaries.

OTHER TAX CONSIDERATIONS INCLUDE:

- o No tax is payable if the estate is below the nil-rate band (£325,000) or left to a spouse, civil partner, charity, or community amateur sports club.
- o The nil-rate band can increase to £650,000 if a spouse or civil partner's unused allowance is applied.
- o An extra tax-free allowance (residence nil-rate band) applies to homes left to direct descendants.

This is simplified information on Inheritance Tax, but it can be very complicated. We really recommend speaking to someone qualified to advise you about estate planning if you think you may be liable for tax. For more information about Inheritance Tax, please visit gov.uk/inheritance-tax

Lisa and her young family were supported by North Devon Hospice through every stage of her journey.



“Hospice nurse Lin was my guardian angel. She’d scoop me up whenever I needed it.”

Lisa Wallis

WHERE TO MAKE YOUR WILL

We can assure you that making or updating your will can be very quick and inexpensive, but the peace of mind it will give you and your loved ones cannot be measured.

We cannot recommend any particular way of making your will over another. But here are the firms locally who can assist you:


Bazeley, Barnes & Bazeley:	01237 473122
Berensens:	01271 233153
Brewer, Harding & Rowe:	01271342271
Coodes:	01409 253425
Crosse Wyatt:	01769 572157
DW Solicitors:	01271 82872
FreeWills.co.uk:	Online service
Jayne McKenzie Smith:	01271 329020
Paul Finn:	01409 255446
Peter, Peter & Wright:	01237 472233
Rosie Bracher:	01271 314904
Samuels:	01271 343457
Seldons:	01237 479121
Slee Blackwell:	01271 372128
Sturgess Perring:	07980 552942
Tuckers:	01271 444222
Wills at Home:	01271 860105
Wollens:	01271 342268

When making your will, you will need to name 'North Devon Hospice' and give our registered charity number, which is 286554. You'll also be asked for our registered address - North Devon Hospice, Deer Park Road, Newport, Barnstaple, EX32 OHU.

We're always here to help, to talk to you about your will or answer any questions about leaving a gift to North Devon Hospice.

Call: 01271 344248 (during office hours)

Email: fundraising@northdevonhospice.org.uk

A photograph of an elderly couple in formal attire. The man, on the left, has white hair and wears glasses, a dark suit, white shirt, and a patterned tie. The woman, on the right, has blonde hair and wears a dark suit. They are leaning in and kissing. A large blue circle with a white border is overlaid on the lower left of the image, containing text. The background is a plain, light-colored wall with a vertical wooden panel on the left.

“We renewed our vows on our 50th wedding anniversary at North Devon Hospice. They’d been supporting us for a while, and it felt like the perfect place because the care Eric received was so special. They made us feel safe and comfortable, everything you could wish for at that time.”

Heather, whose husband
died peacefully at
North Devon Hospice

OUR PROMISE TO YOU

While making or updating your will can be a quick and easy process, we also know it's one of the biggest decisions you'll ever make. If you're considering a gift to North Devon Hospice in your will, here's our promise to you:

- We'll answer any questions honestly and quickly
- We won't put you under pressure – this is a big decision, so please decide in your own time
- Your loved ones come first – we will respect what your will says
- We'll use your special gift wisely and effectively – it'll go where it matters, helping to care for local people
- You don't have to tell us your decision – we respect your right to privacy
- You can come and see the difference you'll make first hand – just get in touch and we can show you what your gift means to us

We're always on hand to talk to you about your wishes, to answer any questions, or if you'd like to inform us of a change in your will. You can call on 01271 344248 during office hours, and we'll be delighted to hear from you.

PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR INTENTIONS

It would help us with future planning to let us know if you're considering a gift in your will, if you've already included North Devon Hospice in your will, or if you'd like to speak to us for more information.

Please contact us

Tel. 01271 344 248

Email. leaveagift@northdevonhospice.org.uk

By completing this form, you are giving consent for North Devon Hospice to contact you with updates about the charity and how your gift will make a real impact on the lives of local people. If you would like to update your preferences at any time, please call us on 01271 344248

THANK YOU

Your will can provide dignity,
comfort and compassion to local
people, when it matters most



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

northdevonhospice.org.uk . registered charity 286554

