



Your Guide

**TO LEAVING A GIFT
IN YOUR WILL**



Thank you



A forever thank you

IN YOUR WILL CAN CHANGE LIVES FOR YEARS TO COME

Thank you for asking about leaving a gift to Royal Berks Charity in your Will.

We hope you'll find this guide, created by NHS Charities Together, interesting and inspirational. We hope that it gives you a clear understanding of why the work of over 230 charities that are represented by NHS Charities Together in every corner of our country is so very important to all of us.

We've also included practical information about how to make and change your Will and the kind of things to consider when writing it.

As you'll see in the coming pages, gifts in Wills are very special to us both, so we hope you'll join the growing community of our supporters nationwide.

**WHY
LEAVING A
*forever
Thank you*
IN YOUR
WILL IS SO
PRECIOUS TO US**



**JOIN OUR
AMAZING
COMMUNITY
OF
SUPPORTERS**

The Royal Berks Charity is a member of NHS Charities Together who represent over 230 member charities, big and small, all dedicated to helping the NHS go above and beyond.

NHS Charities Together support charities in every corner of the UK.

To date they have helped over a thousand projects. Funded over 400 projects for staff, like wellbeing and rest spaces and dedicated counselling support,

As well as funding ambulance volunteer training, research, and specialist equipment and 325 community partnership projects to address local health inequalities*.

But there's so much more to do, and your support for the Royal Berks Charity is more important than ever.

A forever thank you in your Will can make a huge difference to our vital work.

A gift in your Will is just one of many ways that you can choose to support the work of the Royal Berks Charity. We have already received some amazing legacy gifts from generous supporters but more support is needed to help us continue our vital work to help the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation

Trust go further and do more.

Gifts in Wills to the Royal Berks Charity do so much to help us support NHS staff, provide research and specialist equipment, and address local health inequalities. So, every single gift is incredibly precious.

*Figures and examples correct as of 2021



WHAT YOUR *forever thank you* CAN DO

Support for NHS staff

To help staff who are feeling burnt out, anxious and exhausted, NHS Charities Together has, for example:

- Provided quiet spaces, like the health and wellbeing centre at the Royal Berks Hospital, where staff can relax and recover between long and busy shifts.
- Trained the health and wellbeing champions across the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust, to provide the peer support that can prevent mental health issues from worsening.



Support for patients

NHS Charities Together fund projects that make hospital feel less like hospital, provide specialist equipment and new technology, and give vital support to families struggling with bereavement. To help the NHS care for us, they have:

- Invested in research for long-term health conditions, such as Long-Covid, awarding vital initial funding to Southmead Hospital Charity to study its long term effects.
- Hospitals Charity set up a Patient Support Hub to provide extra services for patients who are isolated – like a befriending service and food deliveries.

Support in the community

NHS Charities Together fund projects that support the health and wellbeing of communities, to ease the pressure on hospitals. For example, they have:

- Worked with Grow Cardiff and Cardiff and Vale Health Charity to help those feeling lonely and isolated by getting them involved with community gardening.
- Supported West Midlands Ambulance Service with more bleed control kits across the region. These help save the lives of patients in those vital minutes before an ambulance can arrive.



Why your Will **MATTERS TO YOU**

Your Will may be one of the most important documents you ever write. That's because if you have final wishes, including them in your Will is a great way to be certain they're carried out. A Will is also an excellent place to record your funeral wishes.

Your Will can make sure that the right people get whatever you've decided to leave for them. It's a simple way to carry on looking after loved ones when you're no longer here.

If you die without a Will, the choices you've made may not actually be respected, and your loved ones could be left with a lot of difficult decisions to make, which could lead to considerable distress.

Finally, your Will can also carry on your support for causes that are close to your heart. Remembering the Royal Berks Charity in your Will you can write a forever thank you with a gift that will carry on making a difference, long after you're gone.

THREE TYPES OF

gifts to leave in your Will

These are the three most common types of gift to leave in your Will...

1

I'd like to leave what's left of my estate

After you've taken care of your family and friends and paid off any debts or taxes, you can gift either a portion or all of what's left – it's up to you.

For example, just 1% of what remains of your estate could make a real difference. Many supporters like this kind of gift because, as a part of your overall estate, it keeps its value over time.

2

I'd like to leave a specific amount

Another option is to leave a fixed amount of money, which you set aside in your Will. This type of gift is paid out before the residue of your estate is calculated. But over time, inflation can reduce its value and make it less impactful.

3

I'd like to leave a specific gift

A specific gift is a particular valuable item – like property, shares or a piece of jewellery.

With any of these types of gifts, you are free to restrict your forever thank you to a certain type of work we do. But, in fact, if you leave them unrestricted, it means we can use your gift to help where the need is greatest at the time.

If you would like to chat about restricting your gift, please email us at charity@royalberkshire.nhs.uk



Gifts in Wills AND TAX

The good news is that any gifts left to charities are exempt from Inheritance Tax. On top of that, sometimes by including a gift to a charity you can reduce the tax on everything else you leave behind. But Inheritance Tax is a complex and often-changing area of law, so we advise you visit www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax for all the latest information and speak to a professional.

YOUR *Will writing* CHECKLIST



Step 1

Make a list of your most valuable possessions. Remember to include any property you own, any savings or investments, as well as any valuable items like jewellery or paintings.

Step 2

Add up what you think they're worth. A rough estimate is all you'll need to help work out what gifts you'd like to make.

Step 3

Family and friends come first. Start by working out who you'd like to look after and what you'd like to leave them.

Step 4

Then remember causes close to your heart. Make a list of the charities you'd like to support and think about how you'd like to make those gifts.

Step 5

Choose executors and write your Will. Many people choose trusted family members as their executors. And there are many ways available to write your Will, from consulting a professional to completing a simple template or using one of a variety of online services that can guide you through the process and verify your document.

It's sensible to keep your Will in a safe place – and to tell your executors where it is. Many professional Will writers and solicitors offer to store your Will. Don't worry if your life or decisions change. It is simple to write a new Will that can change your instructions, or to update your Will using what's called a 'codicil'.

USE THIS HANDY TEMPLATE TO WRITE *your forever thank you*

STEP 1 & 2: *List your valuable possessions and estimate their value*

1
2
3
4
5

STEP 3: *List what you'd like to leave to whom*

1
2
3
4
5

STEP 4: *List the charities you'd like to support and your gifts*

1
2
3
4
5

STEP 5: *List your executors*

1
2

Now you're ready to write your Will

THE WORDING YOU NEED TO USE

in your Will



When you want to leave what's left of your estate

Subject to the payment of my debts, funeral and testamentary expenses, I give the whole/ _____ % of my estate not otherwise disposed of by this my Will to Royal Berks Charity, Royal Berkshire Hospital, London Road, Reading, RG1 5AN. Registered Charity No. 1052720 (England & Wales) for their general purposes and I declare that the receipt of its Treasurer or other proper officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge.

When you want to leave a specific amount

I give free of tax to Royal Berks Charity, Royal Berkshire Hospital, London Road, Reading, RG1 5AN. Registered Charity No. 1052720 (England & Wales), the sum of £_____ for their general purposes and I declare that the receipt of its Treasurer or other proper officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge.

“ We understand that this is a
big decision, and are therefore
so grateful to you for
considering this incredible way
of supporting NHS Charities
Together and writing your
forever thank you.”

Ellie Orton OBE

CEO, NHS Charities Together

Contact details:
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Royal Berks Charity

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WRITE YOUR
forever thank you
TO AN NHS CHARITY