

FAQ Legacies

Leaving a gift in your Will doesn't have to be complicated. We've put together some frequently asked questions which we hope will help you through the process.

Why is it so important to make a Will?

The future can be so uncertain but one way you can safeguard your estate is to make a Will. If you die without a Will, you have no control over what happens to your estate and any wishes to family, friends or charities may be lost.

How do I make a Will?

There are various ways you can make a Will. You can consult a professional Will writer or Solicitor, which we would always recommend, but you can also make a Will yourself and there are lots of guides available for this.

Can I change an existing Will?

Yes, simply ask your Solicitor to add something called a Codicil to your Will. It's always good to review your Will every few years as circumstances can change throughout your life.

How can I help family, friends, and charities?

You can name any friends, family and/or charities in your Will. The solicitor will ensure they are all named correctly.

If I leave a gift in my Will to charity, will I pay less tax?

You do not pay any tax on a gift left to charity in your Will. It could even reduce the total amount of your estate that may be liable for inheritance tax.

I don't have a lot to leave is it worth it?

Yes! Even 1% left to the Barn Owl Trust will make an amazing difference.

What type of gift can I leave?

- Pecuniary gift
When you leave a specified fixed amount of money to a person or charity
- Residuary gift
This is a share of what is left after all the other debts and gifts have been made to the beneficiaries
- Conditional gift
When you leave something to someone, unless they die before you, in which case you can specify it should go to another person or charity
- Specific gift
This is a gift of a particular item such as a painting, jewellery or a house

- Reversionary gift

When you leave a house or other property to someone for their use during their lifetime, after which it will go to another person or charity

Who carries out the terms of your Will?

In order for your wishes to be carried out you should appoint people you trust to administer your estate. These are called EXECUTORS. These can be family, friends or a solicitor. Most people have two Executors or more, but you can just appoint one person.

Donations instead of funeral flowers

Many people now request donations to your favourite charity instead of funeral flowers and you can make your Executors aware of your wishes in your Will.

What next?

If you'd like to include the Barn Owl Trust in your Will, please ask your solicitor or Will writing service to use our full name, address, and charity number to ensure we receive the gift:

- Name: Barn Owl Trust
- Registered office: Waterleat, Ashburton, Devon TQ13 7HU
- Registered charity number: Reg. Charity No. 1201419

OUR PROMISE TO YOU

- We will always recognise that your loved ones come first in your wishes
- We will never intrude on your privacy and treat you with respect
- The size of your legacy will never be questioned as any gift makes a difference
- We completely understand that your circumstances may change and there may be a time where you need to remove the Barn Owl Trust from your Will
- We promise to use your gift according to your wishes

