Writing your Will is one of the most important things you’ll ever do, giving you peace of mind that your affairs are in order, your loved ones are protected, and your wishes will be carried out.

We understand it can feel difficult knowing where to start when writing your Will – or perhaps this is something you’ve been meaning to do for a while and never quite found the time. We’re here to support you, and our step-by-step guide will help you get started.

**Step 1**

Write a list of all your assets (what you own) and your liabilities (what you owe). The value of your estate will be your assets minus any outstanding money owed.

**Step 2**

Think about all the people and causes you want to remember in your Will and the amount or type of gift you would like to leave them.

**Step 3**

Choose who you would like to deal with your estate (the executors) when the time comes. This could be a friend, family member or solicitor.

**Step 4**

Make a list of any questions you may have about your Will or what happens next.

**Step 5**

Choose who you would like to help write your Will. The best way to write or change a Will is by using a solicitor. They can answer any questions, and getting professional help ensures your Will is legally binding.

**Did you know** you can use our [Free Will Service](/%7BlocalLink%3Aumb%3A/document/a9bd2cec05954c8b81c9e6774e9ff228%7D) to have your Will written for free using a trusted solicitor in your area?

Gifts in Wills are our largest source of income, and we could not continue our vital work without the generosity of supporters like you who choose to remember us in this special way.

1 in 6 people live with the pain, fatigue, and disability that arthritis can cause. The impact of arthritis can be huge, affecting the ability to work, care for family, move free from pain and live independently. With your help, we are here to change that.

The wonderful thing about gifts in wills is that anybody can choose to remember us in this way. These gifts come in all shapes and sizes – with gifts ranging from £20 to £20,000, from 1% of an estate to 100%, from a watch to a portfolio of shares.

All gifts, no matter the size, can make a lasting impact to our work and are an amazing way of continuing your support.

**"*I feel I’m doing something to help for the future. I want, someday, for everyone with arthritis to be able to live free from pain and to make the most of their lives. And I’m sure I’m not the only one who has this hope*" Pam Hibbs**

**How would you like to change the future?**

Donations are not restricted to particular areas of our work, so whether it’s funding our helpline, research into the root cause of arthritis pain, or trialling a new breakthrough treatment, your gift will go to where the funding is most needed to support people living with arthritis.

However, we know how important it can be to continue your legacy by directing your gift in a Will to a specific area of our work.  If you have a special request in how you would like your legacy to be used, please contact our Gifts in Wills team by email at giftsinwills@versusarthritis.org or by phone 0300 790 0406.  Where possible, we will do our utmost to carry out your wishes.

**How to include a gift in your Will to Versus Arthritis**

Your solicitor will help you with the specific wording of your Will to ensure we receive your wonderful gift. You will also need to include our registered address and charity no:

Versus Arthritis

120 Aldersgate

London

EC1A 4JQ

Registered Charity Nos. 207711, SC041156.

**OUR TOP THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN LEAVING A GIFT IN A WILL**

* **Remember, this doesn’t have to be your final Will** – you can update it as many times as you need to in the future. Life changes in ways we can’t predict, and solicitors recommend we review our Wills every few years to make sure it still reflects our wishes. We are here to help if you come back to us at any time to update your Will or if you need any advice.
* **If you leave at least 10% of your net estate to charity, you may qualify for a reduced rate of inheritance tax.** This means your loved ones could receive more by remembering a charity in your Will. There is more information on the gov.uk website about this.
* **Let your friends and family know you have made a Will.** They may be worrying about what they need to do. Knowing you have your financial affairs in order may give them some reassurance and comfort.

**If you've remembered us in your Will, we'd love to know.** Why? Because your support is incredibly important; it helps us plan for what we can do for people with arthritis in the future and because we'd like to say a HUGE thank you for your wonderful gift!

**Do you still have questions?**

There is more information about Will writing on our Useful information about Wills page. Or you could contact the Gifts in Wills team by telephone: 0300 7900 406 or email giftsinwills@versusarthritis.org.