



The Silver Line

Legacy information

The Silver Line is a registered charity in the UK. Registered Charity No. in England & Wales 1147330.
Registered Charity No. in Scotland SC044467. Company No. 8000807.





“Most of the callers to The Silver Line have literally nobody else they can speak to. The Silver Line has become a lifeline for many, as one caller told us “when I get off the phone I feel like I have joined the human race again”. A gift in your Will to The Silver Line would literally transform lives, enabling us to continue to be there day and night for anyone who needs us.”

Dame Esther Rantzen,
Founder & President of The Silver Line.

Leaving a gift in your Will

A gift in your Will of any size to The Silver Line will be invaluable in enabling us to plan for the future and ensure that we can continue to answer every call. More than 1600 people call The Silver Line helpline every day, and we expect this number to keep growing.

As a first priority of course, you will want to ensure your family and friends are looked after. But after you have provided for them, leaving a gift, or percentage of what’s left over to The Silver Line, is a wonderful way to help take care of others who may need care and support in the future.

The Silver Line

Loneliness is intensely painful. It can be a shock that few of us anticipate, and certainly don’t plan for. Yet many older people go for days, and in some cases weeks, without seeing or talking to anyone. Their friends and family may have died or moved away, or perhaps they are caring for a husband or wife and feel emotionally isolated. Loneliness has become an epidemic, but a hidden and invisible one.

The Silver Line is the only confidential, free helpline offering information, friendship and advice for lonely and isolated older people, available at any time day and night, every day of the year. Our premise is simple; there’s no question too big, no problem too small and no need to be alone.

In just under five years, we have answered more than 2 million calls with a growing number received every day. Additionally through our befriending services, over 2000 older people are now receiving regular weekly friendship calls from volunteer Silver Line Friends whilst others are participating in Silver Circles, group phone calls with people with similar interests, or receiving fortnightly letters (called Silver Letters).

An unmet and growing need has been uncovered and we are determined that we will continue to be there for everyone who needs us both now and in the future. But to ensure that we can be, as the number of calls to the helpline continues to grow at an extraordinary rate, we are reliant on the generosity of our supporters.

“It’s been a life-saver for me. I’ve never been alone all my life till now and I’m 83, so you can see how I appreciate The Silver Line.”

Making your Will is simple

A Will is one of the most important documents you'll ever write. With a Will in place, **you decide what happens to your money and possessions**, whilst protecting those you care about most. If you die without a valid Will, your estate is said to be 'intestate'. This can happen if you don't have a Will, have revoked or cancelled your Will, or if your Will is invalid – for example it's not correctly signed or witnessed.

Leaving a gift in your Will is a very personal matter but it is considerably less daunting than many people think, it doesn't have to be complicated. We often talk about someone's legacy – things that remind us of a person who is sadly no longer with us. But the word 'legacy' when used in connection with a Will is often assumed to be the exclusive domain of the extremely wealthy. In reality a legacy can be any size and is simply a personal gift; anyone can choose to benefit. The Silver Line's work in a Will, a codicil or even a letter of wishes. Any amount you choose to leave will make a difference to the lives of others in the future.

I already have a Will. Do I need to update it?

It's a good idea to review your Will from time to time to make sure that it still reflects your wishes, especially if your personal circumstances have changed. Changes that could affect your Will could include;

- marriage, divorce or separation
- a new arrival or death in your family
- moving home or moving abroad
- a change in your financial circumstances

Who should write my Will?

We strongly advise that you consult a solicitor or other qualified and insured legal professional when planning a Will to ensure it is valid and that your wishes are carried out in full.

Where do I start?

Step 1 - Work out what you have to leave

When you think about everything you own, you may be surprised by just how much you have to leave. In legal terms, these belongings are known as your assets, and taken together, they form your estate. If your total estate (the sum of all your possessions, property, money and liabilities at the time of death) is above the Inheritance Tax threshold, your solicitor can advise you on ways to reduce your tax. Gifts to charity are exempt from Inheritance Tax, and could therefore help reduce your liability to tax.

Step 2 - Decide who should benefit

Make a list of all the people who you would like to benefit from your estate after your death, and in what way, including full names and addresses. Consider your family, friends and also consider the opportunities your Will gives you to help others, through a gift to any organisation or charity who you believe does important work.

Step 3 - Choose the type of gift

Once you have provided for your loved ones, you may choose to leave a gift to The Silver Line. There are several types of gift you can leave – a specific sum of money, a certain asset such as a personal possession or share portfolio, or a fixed percentage of

the residue of your estate. If you decide you would like to leave a gift to us, it is important to write this into your Will using the correct legal wording. (Please see *Types of Gift* on page 7).

Step 4 - Choose your executors

Executors are the people who are responsible for administering your Will and making sure that your wishes are carried out. They are usually a family member or close friend, but can be a professional person such as a solicitor or accountant. Every Will must have at least one executor. It is best to choose two executors, just in case one is unable to act for you. Naming someone as an executor does not stop them from being beneficiaries of the Will.

Step 5 - Get your Will signed and witnessed

When the Will is drawn up, it will need to be signed by you in the presence of two witnesses who will then sign it themselves. It is important that the witnesses are impartial, and cannot be beneficiaries or related to a beneficiary of the Will.

Step 6 - Keep your Will safe

Once you have finished your Will it is important to keep it safe and to let your executors know where it can be found. One way to do this is to entrust it to your solicitor.



Types of gift

A share of your estate

A good way to help is to leave us all or part of what is left of your estate after other gifts and debts have been paid. This type of gift (known as a residuary bequest), is easy to add to an existing Will without interfering with any specific sums you have left to family or friends. It also has the advantage that it will not be eroded in value by inflation over the years.

A cash gift

You may wish to leave a stated sum of money. With this kind of gift (known as a pecuniary bequest), it is wise to remember that the value of money changes over the years, and you may need to alter your Will periodically to keep up with inflation.

A specific item

You may wish to leave a particular item (known as a specific bequest), which can be sold to support our work. It could be property such as a house, or an item of value such as an antique or a piece of jewellery.

A gift in trust

You can leave a gift for someone to use over a period of time. When the time has ended, the gift can be passed on to other recipients, such as a charity.

Donations in memory

You may like to specify that if anyone makes a donation in your memory, it should be to The Silver Line. We can send you a special form requesting this, which you can then keep with your Will.



Recommended wording if you leave a gift to The Silver Line

If you decide that you would like to leave a gift to The Silver Line, you need to know our registered charity number and address;

**The Silver Line, Trade Tower, Calico Row,
Battersea, London SW11 3YH.**

**Registered charity number 1147330 (England & Wales),
SC044467 (Scotland).**

Your solicitor may need an example of some suggested wording;

Pecuniary gift (specific sum)

I give free of tax the sum of £..... to The Silver Line Helpline of Trade Tower, Calico Row, Battersea, London SW11 3YH (registered charity no. 1147330) for its general charitable purposes.

Residuary gift (share of estate)

I leave% of my residuary estate upon trust for The Silver Line Helpline of Trade Tower, Calico Row, Battersea, London SW11 3YH (registered charity no. 1147330) for its general charitable purposes.

Specific item

I give free of tax my *(insert asset or possession here)* to The Silver Line Helpline of Trade Tower, Calico Row, Battersea, London SW11 3YH (registered charity no. 1147330) for its general charitable purposes.

We recommend asking a solicitor about gifts in trusts and conditional gifts

It is important to word these gifts carefully to make sure your wishes are reflected and your loved ones are taken care of as you intend.

How will a gift to The Silver Line Action affect my tax position?

Gifts to registered charities in your Will are tax-free. So if the value of your estate is more than the tax threshold, it could reduce the burden of Inheritance Tax. This could mean that, effectively, part of your gift is paid for by the HMRC. Your solicitor or accountant can tell you more.

How will The Silver Line use your gift?

Any gift that you may leave will be used to ensure that we continue to provide The Silver Line Helpline every day and night of the year, along with friendship services for those who wish to use them.

£10,000

can pay for 100 callers to be befriended for a year.

£5,000

can pay to recruit and train 100 volunteers to become Silver Line Friends.

£2,500

can pay for 10 callers to be supported by the helpline for a year.

£500

can pay for 100 calls with older people who may not have spoken to another human being all week.



“ Thank goodness I picked up your leaflet and followed it up. Everyone who takes my calls is kind and I feel 100% better when I get off the phone. I want to make sure this lifeline is there for everyone so I hope my small gift will be useful for someone else like me.”

If I decide to leave a gift to The Silver Line, should I tell you?

Remembering us in your Will is a very personal decision and one you may prefer not to share with us. But if you do decide to tell us in confidence, it will give us an opportunity to say thank you and tell you about the progress of our work and the difference it is making to people’s lives. To let us know, simply complete and return the **Pledge Form** (Please see page 15). Our pledge in return is to keep your details completely confidential and to say thank you so much. If you decide not to advise The Silver Line of your gift we nonetheless remain equally extremely grateful for your support.

If you would like to discuss anything at all regarding leaving a gift in your Will in strict confidence, please do not hesitate to call Nina on 020 7224 2020.



“Taking a small amount of time to make a well thought out and properly drawn up Will with a solicitor is the greatest gift you can give to those you leave behind. It shows you cared enough to leave everything in good order and wanted to ensure your lifetime of hard work – be it large or small in value – is passed on smoothly to your chosen beneficiaries. Making a Will is the only way for you to decide exactly where your assets and money should go. Charities like The Silver Line will only benefit from your Will if you make a positive decision to name them. If you do that it will mean you have left a legacy that will enable The Silver Line to carry on their wonderful work to relieve loneliness and isolation in older people. So make a Will and make a real difference to people in the UK.”

Gary Rycroft, Partner, Joseph A. Jones & Co Solicitors, Lancaster.

Glossary

There are lots of legal terms used when writing a Will. Solicitors will probably use;

Assets and Liabilities

Assets are your home, property, car, household and personal effects, cash, savings, stocks and shares, insurance policies and other benefits (e.g. pensions). Liabilities include any outstanding mortgages, loans and debts and are taken off the value of your assets to work out the value of your estate.

Beneficiary

A person or organisation that will receive a gift in your Will.

Bequest

A gift left in your Will in the form of money, property or other.

Codicil

This is an appendix to a Will used to make a simple change.

Conditional cash gift

This is a type of gift you can leave in your Will. For example, money to a young person when they reach a certain age, or to a charity if your beneficiaries die before you do.

Deed of Variation

A way that beneficiaries of a Will can alter the distribution of an estate after the testator has passed away (for example to benefit a charity or alter it for purposes of taxation).

Die intestate

Dying without having a Will. Your wishes may be ignored. The Government may take charge of your estate.

Estate

This is the sum of all your possessions, property, money and liabilities at the time of death.

Executor

A person, chosen by you, who will carry out the instructions written in your Will.

Inheritance Tax

If the value of your estate is over £325,000 (tax year), then you may be liable to pay Inheritance Tax, currently paid to the Government at a rate of 40%. Tax is only calculated on anything above the rate of £325,000. There are several ways to avoid paying Inheritance Tax, such as leaving a gift to charity. For more information visit www.hmrc.gov.uk.

Probate

This is the legal procedure after death, which confirms if a Will is valid and confirms the executor's authority to carry out your wishes.

Testator

A person who has made a Will is sometimes referred to as a testator.

Will

A legal document that confirms a person's final wishes. It outlines what to do with the possessions of the deceased person. It is also known as testament.





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- **www.thesilverline.org.uk**
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- Registered Charity No. 1147330