



**Gifts in wills:  
Leave a lasting legacy...**



**Giving Depth to Short Lives**

Most people are aware of the importance of making a Will and understand that by planning early they can be assured their wishes are met. However, it often takes a significant life changing event to encourage us to actually put pen to paper.

This booklet will show you how making a Will not only benefits your loved ones, but how it can also help improve the lives of children with life limiting illnesses in the UK.

Making a Will need not be difficult or expensive and although it is possible to write your own, it is advisable to consult a solicitor to ensure your wishes are legally valid, especially if they are not straightforward.

### Meet leuan:



*“The specialist buggy React has supplied will open up another world for leuan... all the textures and smells, being able to feel the pine cones and the leaves. The stimulation will be great for him.”*  
leuan’s Mother

## Do I need a solicitor?

Although Wills can be made using ‘over the counter’ templates, any mistakes in the Will can lead to problems that could be expensive to rectify.

If you have any doubts with regards to making a Will, it is recommended you obtain the advice of a solicitor. It is also advisable that you seek independent advice if one or more of the following apply:

- If you are not a British citizen and your permanent home is not in the UK.
- If you own a farm.
- If you are a sole trader and wish to leave specific instructions as to the contribution of your business.

Additionally, if you have immovable assets (e.g. property) anywhere other than in England or Wales, then you should make a Will for all of your assets in England and Wales and then make another in the country(s) in which your other assets are held.

### Online Will making services

If you decide not to use a solicitor, there are many different websites that offer Will making services online.

One such site is [www.thewillsite.co.uk](http://www.thewillsite.co.uk) where React is one of the listed charities.

## Why making a Will makes financial and emotional sense

If you die intestate (without making a Will), all of your possessions and savings are passed to the state and the law has the final say on “who gets what”.

Your next of kin will have to apply to the Probate Registry for permission to administer your estate, which can be a lengthy process as professional legal advice and representation is normally required.

In an already highly emotive time for your loved ones, this is an added stress and cost which could easily be avoided if you make a Will.

Inheritance tax can also come as a shock to many families, who often believe that it is only a tax that applies to the wealthy. However, with the increase in home ownership and steady rise in property prices, more and more ordinary people are liable to inheritance tax.

*“Nothing can prepare parents for coping after the loss of their child, but the love and support from friends and family and the generous support from React has helped us immensely.”*

*The feedback we receive from our families is a constant reminder of how valuable the equipment we provide is, to the children, their siblings and their carers*

React is a registered charity, so under current UK law any legacy left to React is exempt from inheritance tax. Therefore, gifts left to React are deducted from the value of the estate before inheritance tax is calculated. Leaving a charitable legacy reduces the amount of inheritance tax as well as ensuring the future of React’s children and families.

Making a Charitable Legacy will also help React build a secure financial foundation; a foundation on which we can expand and enhance our work with terminally ill children throughout the UK.

***Please take a few minutes to consider how you may be able to remember React’s children in your Will.***



## I have made my Will – Can I change it?

It is important you keep your Will up-to-date to take account of changing circumstances. If you would like to include React in your existing Will you can do this by adding a codicil.

A codicil is quite simply a document that amends an existing Will and there is no limit to the number of codicils which can be made to one Will.

You can find suggested wording for a codicil at [www.reactcharity.org](http://www.reactcharity.org)

*“Huge thanks for funding Ethan’s body splint, [it] has improved his ability to enjoy play and boosted his confidence. Ethan is a much happier child as a result. Thanks again for your generosity.”*

## Legacies and Bequests - what is the difference?

**Legacies** - A legacy is a straightforward gift of money left in a Will

**Bequests** - A bequest refers to property or possessions

## Which type of legacy is best for me?

The four most common types of Legacies and Bequests:

### A Pecuniary Legacy

A gift of a specific sum of money.

It is worth remembering that due to inflation pecuniary Legacies lose value from the day the Will is made.

### A Specific Bequest

A gift of a specific property or asset.

This includes a house or shares

### A Residuary Legacy

A gift of the remainder of the estate after all other bequests have been made and debts cleared is called a residuary bequest.

### Contingent bequest

A gift in your Will that depends upon the occurrence of an event which may or may not happen is known legally as a contingent bequest. (For example, a bequest to a charity which applies only if other beneficiaries named in the Will, die before the person who made the Will.)

## Why we need your help



The needs of children living with terminal illnesses are complex and React aims to provide essential support where and when it is needed most.

Help is given in the provision of a wide range of items including specialist medical, educational and domestic equipment – all purposely donated to give the child the best possible quality of life.

Time is of the essence for children who are likely to die young, therefore React always deals with requests for help in a sensitive manner and with absolute minimum fuss.

A gift in your Will can make a very real difference to the lives of terminally ill children throughout the UK.

***Leave a gift in your Will and help terminally ill children and their despairing families***

## How would you like to be remembered?

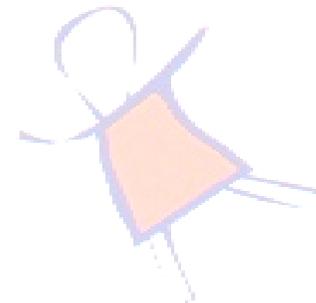
Imagine being remembered for something amazing like...

...Providing terminally ill children from financially disadvantaged families with the vital help or specialist equipment that will enhance their lives.

...Enabling us to respond with practical and sensitive support within days, if not hours. When a child's life is short, an immediate response is vital.

...Providing assistance throughout a child's lifetime. Most life-limiting illnesses are degenerative and a child's needs may change as their condition progresses.

Your support will enable React to supply more specialist, domestic and educational equipment to children than could otherwise be possible.





## Meet Joe:

Joe spent the first 5 ½ months of his life in hospital after being diagnosed with Noonan's Syndrome- a rare and severe illness which affects many aspects of his health including his brain, heart, lungs, stomach and skin. After having a severe seizure the Doctor felt that Joe would not live more than another 3 weeks. However, now at nearly 2 years old Joe has exceeded everyone's expectations.

Although Joe is almost blind, he responds well to the lights and sounds at his local sensory room. However, buying similar equipment for use at home seemed, at nearly £1,000, impossible. Using funds donated to React, Joe will soon have his very own 'sensory centre' with a bubble tube and fibre-optic ropes that he can enjoy any time of the day or night. Joe's mum wrote to say how much this equipment will mean to Joe - *"I would like to say a BIG 'thank you' to everyone who has made this possible. I could never have afforded the sensory centre for Joe myself, and words cannot say how grateful I am. We are looking forward to many hours of fun and beneficial playtime at home. All those who are involved with Joe agree that this equipment will be a great help and bring a little joy into his very difficult life. Thank you!"*

## Sister Frances Dominica, OBE React Patron

Founder of the World's first children's hospice, Helen & Douglas House



*"There can be few more devastating experiences in life than being told that your child has a life-shortening condition for which there is little or no chance of cure..."*

*...I know that for many families, REACT has been a lifeline, helping to ensure that children can live at home in comfort and*

*dignity when without REACT the cost of caring would be an impossible burden for many parents."*

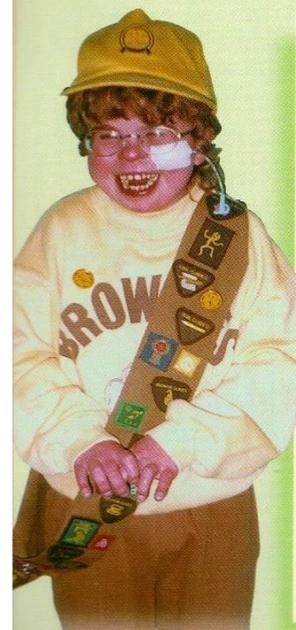
## Please keep us informed...

React realises that a Will is a very personal and sensitive document. It is entirely up to you whether or not you wish to disclose any of the details. But, it does help us to plan for the future if we know your intentions.

Please inform us if you have arranged for React to benefit or you have already made a gift to the work of React in your Will.

***As you begin to plan for your family's future,  
please remember React's children***

## Farewell to Jessica



Dear React

*It is with sad news that I write. Jessica died on Thursday 5th September at 9.45am, peacefully in my arms at home. It was quite sudden and very beautiful. We want to thank React and all the people involved in their kindness and generosity over the years. She had just made it to her tenth birthday on the 10th of August. We will miss her immensely and are so thankful she was born into our family.*

*Love and best wishes  
Lin and Paul Hurst.*

If you require further information  
or would like to discuss other ways to support  
React, please contact us today:

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**Tel:** 020 8940 2575

**Email:** [react@reactcharity.org](mailto:react@reactcharity.org)

**Web:** [www.reactcharity.org](http://www.reactcharity.org)

**We look forward to hearing from you...**

React aims to give children with life-limiting illnesses the best quality of life in the short time they have left. However you wish to give, you will make a considerable difference to a family struggling to give their child the best care they can.