

A gift in your will can help ARC make a difference

With your support, ARC can ensure that **every** parent who needs us during a difficult time is able to contact us and access the much-needed information and support only we can offer.

This leaflet will help you think about your will before you visit a solicitor. This document is not legally binding.

Thank you for looking at how you can support ARC with a gift in your will. We have put together this document to help you to think about what you would like to leave for family, friends, and charity, and help you to ensure that your wishes are carried out after you are gone. ARC recommends that you use a solicitor to write your will. You may like to use the Law Society's website to find a solicitor local to you: <http://solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk/>.

Making your will

Follow these steps to help you plan your will; think about your assets, and your wishes.

1. Choose your executors

Your executors are the people who will administer your will. You may wish to choose your partner, another family member or a friend. A solicitor can also act as your executor. People normally choose two executors. An executor can also be a beneficiary of your will.

2. Think about your assets

Use the table on the next page to think about your personal belongings and what their approximate value may be. The total value of your estate will be the sum of all your assets, minus any outstanding money you owe such as a mortgage or loan.

3. Dividing your assets

Next think about who you want to leave a gift in your will to. There is no limit on the number of gifts you can choose to make. After you have ensured that your loved ones are provided for, you might wish to think about leaving a gift to charity. Even a small legacy donation can make a very big difference, particularly for small charities like ARC.

You can choose to leave gifts in a number of ways – they can be **specific**, **residuary** or **pecuniary**. You can find an explanation of the different kinds of gifts in the glossary at the end of this leaflet. Your solicitor will help you with the exact wording you need to use to ensure your wishes are carried out as you would like.

4. Approving your will

Once your solicitor has drafted your will, it will be sent to you to make sure it reflects your wishes. Once you are happy with it, you will need to sign the document in front of two witnesses at the same time. People who are beneficiaries of your will are not allowed to be witnesses.

5. Keeping your will safe

You may wish to keep your will at home, in a safe place. Your solicitor can also keep your will for you. Don't forget to let your family know where it is kept. And remember, you can alter your will at any time if your personal circumstances change.

Your assets

Use Table 1 to help you think about the approximate value of your assets. Then, use Table 2 to think about what you could owe. Once you've done this, you can calculate the **net value** of your estate.

Table 1

ITEM	VALUE
Your house/other property	
Bank account/s	
Other savings account/s	
Investments	
Stocks and shares	
Life insurance	
Premium Bonds	
Money you are owed	
Business assets	
Car/s	
Furniture and other household items	
Any other assets	
Total	

Table 2

ITEM	VALUE
Mortgage	
Other loan/s	
Credit card balance	
Overdraft	
Any other money you owe	
Total	

Net value of your estate – take total 2 from total 1.

Total from Table 1	
Total from Table 2	
The net value of your estate	

Glossary of terms

- Administrator** Someone appointed by law to settle your affairs if you die **intestate**.
- Beneficiaries** People, or organisations such as a charity, that will benefit from your will.
- Codicil** An addition or amendment to an existing will.
- Estate** The property, including money, owned by the deceased after any debts and/or expenses connected with his or her death have been taken into account.
- Executors** The person/s appointed by the testator to deal with the estate after his or her death.
- Inheritance tax** A 40% tax deducted from estates worth more than £325,000. Recent changes to inheritance tax mean that in 2020, the tax threshold will increase to £500,000 and owners of property costing up to £1,000,000 will be able to leave it to their children or grandchildren tax-free.
- Intestate** When a person dies without having made a will.
- Pecuniary gift** A gift of money, where the precise value of the gift is specifically indicated, stated in a will.
- Residuary gift** A share of the estate once all pecuniary gifts have been distributed and any debts settled, expressed as a percentage allocated in the will.
- Specific gift** A definite object or property left as a gift.
- Probate** The legal process to establish if a will is valid.
- Testator** The person who is making the will.
- Trust** An arrangement you can make in your will to administer part of your assets. Your solicitor will be able to advise you on this.

Thank you for helping ARC to support anxious, expectant and bereaved parents. If you'd like any more information on leaving a gift in your will to ARC then please feel free to contact us at info@arc-uk.org, by calling 0207 713 7356 or writing to ARC, 345 City Road, London, EC1V 1LR.