

epilepsy
society

remembering us
in your will



here for people affected by epilepsy

Over half a million people in the UK have epilepsy and one third of people with epilepsy have seizures that cannot be controlled through available anti-epileptic drugs.

There are 1,000 deaths from the condition every year, including many children and young adults.

Epilepsy can have a devastating effect on people and their families, affecting all aspects of their lives but there is so much that we can do to make life better for everyone affected by epilepsy.

We provide vital information and support through our leaflets, our helpline, regional services and website. We also raise awareness through campaigns, undertake vital epilepsy medical research and provide medical, residential and nursing care.

why your support is important

Much of our work is made possible by the gifts people leave behind in their wills. Without them we simply wouldn't have the resources to give people hope and the help they need. With these gifts we are able to make a real and lasting contribution to the treatment and understanding of epilepsy.

Making a will is about helping others to live. It's a positive recognition of the people that you care about and the causes that inspire you. Of course, your loved ones and your own needs in later life must come first in making a will. But if helping others with epilepsy is something that is close to your heart and you are inspired by our work, then please remember us when you come to making or updating your will.

By leaving a gift in your will, you will help to make sure that we can continue to be there for everyone whose life is affected by epilepsy.



“Research is a painstakingly slow process involving many hours of collecting and analysing data. But when a breakthrough comes promising a better outcome for people with epilepsy, the rewards are enormous.”

Professor John Duncan
Medical Director, Epilepsy Society



why make a will

Making a will is the only way to ensure that your estate is distributed as you would wish. It gives you peace of mind and saves loved ones from unnecessary anxiety. Your estate may not automatically go to your partner, children or relatives unless you have made a legally valid will. If you die 'intestate' i.e. without a valid will, your assets will be distributed according to the law rather than in line with what you would have wanted.

You may be surprised to find out exactly how much you own when you come to making a will and there is a common misconception that a legacy has to be a large sum of money.

If you haven't yet made a will, it is vitally important to ask a solicitor for professional help. Although you can write your will yourself, it is easy to make mistakes and getting the help of a solicitor gives the assurance that you have covered all the formalities. The cost depends on how complex you need your will to be, but the simplest can cost as little as £100.



making your will

A solicitor will be able to advise on the wording and the legal formalities for making a will. The Law Society website, www.lawsociety.org.uk, is able to help you find solicitors in your area.

Before you visit your solicitor find out roughly how much your estate is worth. Add up all your assets (everything you own) and then subtract any liabilities (anything you owe). This will give you a good idea of what you have to share out in your will.

Think about who you would like to be legally responsible for implementing your will (your executors). You can have up to four executors. They can be friends or family or someone known to you in a professional capacity such as a solicitor. You should also think who you would like to benefit (your beneficiaries) and to what extent, as well as other considerations such as appointing guardians for children, provision for pets and funeral arrangements.

Drafting or amending your will is also a good opportunity to specify whether you would like donations in memory rather than flowers at your funeral.

It's best to leave the original of your will with your solicitor or in another safe place such as a bank. Keep a copy at home in a safe place and tell your executors or immediate family where they can find it.



keep your will up to date

Reviewing your will from time to time is important, particularly if your personal circumstances change. There are many events which could affect your will, from inheriting wealth yourself, the birth of grandchildren, to changes in government policy.

Small changes and additions can be made easily and inexpensively by adding a 'codicil'. This is a legally valid document which can be added to your will and which needs to be witnessed and signed in the same way that a will is. However you will need to update the whole will to make more complicated changes – again, your solicitor can help.

good news on inheritance tax

The good news is that gifts to Epilepsy Society are exempt from inheritance tax. So not only can you be sure that by leaving a legacy to Epilepsy Society we will be getting the full benefit of your intended gift, but it can also be used to reduce your overall tax burden. Ask your solicitor for advice on inheritance tax planning. Inheritance tax is payable on your estate if what you have to leave is worth more than the limit above which inheritance tax is payable.





leaving us a gift

To leave Epilepsy Society a legacy in your will it is vital to include our full name, address, and charity number. Without this, the legacy may not be valid.

**Epilepsy Society, Chesham Lane
Chalfont St Peter. Buckinghamshire,
SL9 0RJ**

Registered charity number: 206186.

Epilepsy Society is the working name of The National Society for Epilepsy. Legacies made out to either name will be valid.

types of legacies

The priorities of our work may change in the future as the needs of people affected by epilepsy change.

This is why we recommend that any gifts which are left to us are unrestricted insofar as they can be directed where the need is greatest. However should you choose to specify that e.g. any gift be used for medical research (which is a long term priority), we will honour your wishes.

Whatever type of gift you choose to leave, they all help to make a real difference in our work, whether your legacy is large or small.

Residuary legacy: this is either a part or all of what's left after other gifts, expenses and taxes have been paid from your estate. This is a great way to benefit Epilepsy Society as the value of the gift will change over the years as your circumstances change.

Pecuniary legacy: a gift of a set amount of money. You can index link your gift to ensure that it will keep its value over the years (please ask your solicitor about this).

Specific gift: a gift of a specific item, like a piece of furniture or jewellery.

There are other types of legacies, including conditional and life interest legacies, which may be suitable if you need to make provision for a dependent before the payment of any gift. Please contact us if you would like to know more about these.

sample legacy clauses

Below are some examples of legacy clauses that can be included in your will to ensure that your gift is received by Epilepsy Society.

Residuary Gifts:

“I give (--%) of the residue of my real and personal estate which I can dispose of by will in any manner I think proper to Epilepsy Society of Chesham Lane, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks, SL9 0RJ (Registered Charity No. 206186) for the general purposes of the charity and the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer or the proper officer for the time being of Epilepsy Society shall be a complete discharge to my Executors”.

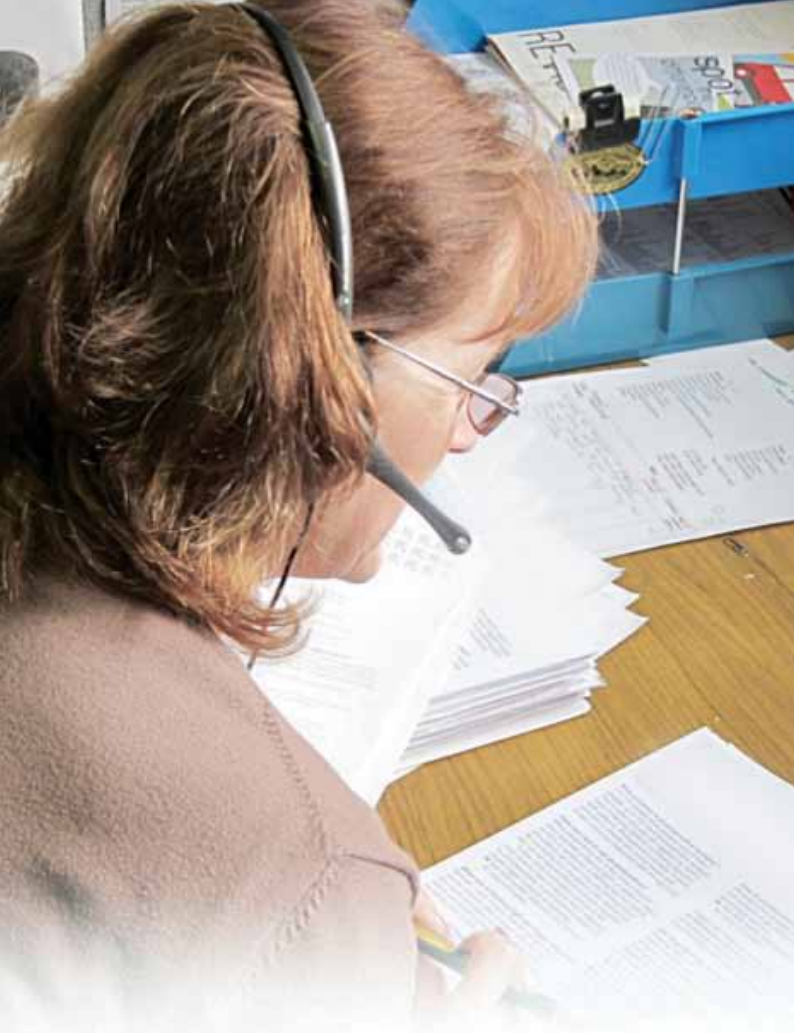
Pecuniary Gifts:

“I give the sum of (---) pounds to Epilepsy Society of Chesham Lane, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks, SL9 0RJ (Registered Charity No. 206186) for the general purposes of the charity and the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer or other proper officer for the time being of Epilepsy Society shall be a complete discharge to my Executors”.

Specific Gifts:

“I give (*please insert a clear description of the items to be bequeathed*) to Epilepsy Society of Chesham Lane, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks, SL9 0RJ (Registered Charity No. 206186) with the right to realise such assets and apply the proceeds for the general purposes of the charity and the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer or other proper officer for the time being of Epilepsy Society shall be a complete discharge to my Executors”.





“In my time of insecurity and need I phoned the Epilepsy Society helpline. They helped me understand what I was going through and made me feel normal”.

Andi Ramsay, Helpline user

Andi called our helpline when he was feeling very depressed. He was hit by a car on a pedestrian crossing causing multiple breaks to his bones and a head injury. In spite of surgery he was left with post traumatic epilepsy and debilitating seizures.



thank you

You can be sure that every penny of every legacy, whether large or small, will be used to make a real difference. You will be providing us with vital income needed to continue our ground breaking medical research and all of our other work to support those affected by epilepsy.

Thank you for thinking about us and, if you are able to, for remembering us in your will. Thousands of lives today are better because of wills made by others that included Epilepsy Society. Thousands of lives in the future will be better because of yours.

For further advice on leaving a legacy in your will to Epilepsy Society please call us on:
01494 601313.



keep in touch

If you have already included a legacy to Epilepsy Society in your will or you intend to, then we would really like to have the opportunity to say thank you. Knowing that people intend to support us in this special way gives us extra security for the future, so please let us know here.

I have already remembered Epilepsy Society with a legacy in my will

I intend to remember Epilepsy Society with a legacy in my will

If you are thinking about remembering us in your will but would like more information please indicate below:

Please send me your annual review

I'd like more information on

.....
.....

What has inspired you to remember Epilepsy Society in your will?

.....
.....

Contact details

name:

address

.....
.....

postcode

tel no

email

Please tick here if you would like to be kept up-to-date with Epilepsy Society's news and activities via email

Please return to:
Epilepsy Society
Fundraising Department
Freepost SL766
Gerrards Cross
SL9 7BR



**epilepsy
society**

**a full life
for everyone
affected by
epilepsy**



cares

A full life for everyone affected by epilepsy.

informs

Website, leaflets, dvds – call 01494 601 392.

researches

Pioneering medical research.

campaigns

Shaping the future of epilepsy.

connects



Forum, Facebook, Twitter and app.

Volunteer, become a member, fundraise.

educates

Awareness, schools, training for professionals.

understands

Medical and care services.

listens

helpline 01494 601 400

Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm

Confidential. National call rate.

Information and emotional support.

Epilepsy Society
Chesham Lane, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks SL9 0RJ
01494 601 300

Epilepsy Society is the working name of The National Society for Epilepsy. Registered charity no. 206186.

Front cover (and page 6) detail from Passmore Edwards House, Epilepsy Society HQ.