

Legacy Giving:

Leaving a gift in your will to MDS UK

Thank you so much for considering leaving a gift in your will to MDS UK! This document gives details of the condition and the support that MDS UK provides, different ways to leave a legacy, will writing services, our commitment to you, and our contact details.

What is MDS?

As a patient or caregiver, you will be only too aware of what MDS is. However, this brief description may be helpful to any solicitor or anyone helping you with setting up your will.

Every year around 2,500 patients in the UK are diagnosed with Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS), a rare blood cancer which causes bone marrow failure. It mainly affects people over 60 and can cause a variety of symptoms including overwhelming fatigue, infections and bleeding. Most people have never heard of MDS, and GPs may only see 1-2 cases in their lifetime, so informed support for all is vital.

What does MDS UK provide?

- Information about the disease, current treatments and clinical trials.
- A helpline for patients and caregivers.
- National forum and information events with expert MDS speakers.
- The opportunity for patients and carers to meet locally for emotional support.
- Lobbying and advocacy for new drugs and treatments.
- A patient voice in the setup of new clinical trials.
- Funding medical research into MDS.
- A website covering all aspects of MDS.
- An online message forum and Facebook page for patients and carers to talk to each other.
- Support for nurses to attend educational conferences.
- MDS UK is one of the founding and leading members of the international umbrella organisation MDS Alliance.

Your legacy

Once you have looked after your family and loved ones, please consider remembering MDS UK in your will. You do not have to be wealthy to leave a meaningful gift. Gifts of any size make a real difference to the services we provide to those affected by MDS.

By leaving a legacy to MDS UK, you are helping us support others affected by MDS in the future and continue to fund vital medical research.

Many of our legacy gifts are from people who want to give something back for the care and support MDS UK has provided. By supporting us with a gift in your will, you can enhance all care for MDS patients and their loved ones, leaving a legacy to be proud of!

How will your gift be used?

You may wish to leave a gift to support MDS UK's area of greatest need. If so, please consider leaving a general legacy so we can ensure it funds the things we need the most.

You may wish your gift to support a specific aspect of our work- something close to your heart. In this case, please contact us using the details on **page 4** to discuss whether we can fulfil your wishes.

What is a will?

Your will is a very important document that tells everyone what should happen to your money, possessions and property after you die (this is called your “estate”).

Why should you make a will?

Making a will ensures that your family, loved ones and the causes close to your heart get what you want from your estate. It secures a future for them and is therefore one of the most important things that everyone must consider at some point in their life. If you pass away without a will, you will not get a say in who inherits your property, possessions and money. The law will decide what happens to it, and this may not be in line with your wishes.

Putting a will in place whilst you are in good health will give you significant peace of mind, knowing that, should your condition deteriorate, you and your family will not need to worry about making such decisions at a difficult time. Many MDS patients have opted to take this step. It is wise for anyone with any form of wealth, or estate to make a will, whatever their circumstances.

How to leave a legacy

There are three main ways you can leave a legacy to MDS UK when managing your estate:

1) Residual legacy

We understand that family and loved ones come first. This type of gift or legacy means that after looking after your family, the remainder of your estate can be left to MDS UK alone, or other charities close to your heart.

2) Cash legacy

You may decide to leave MDS UK a certain sum of money. You can do this by informing your solicitor that you would like to make a “pecuniary bequest.”

3) Legacy in kind

This means remembering us through specific items such as jewellery, shares, property or furniture. This is known as a “specific legacy.”

Your solicitor can provide advice on all these options. You will need to provide our full name, address and charity registration number. See [page 4](#) for these details.

Your funeral director may have other suggestions for ways to donate. If you would like to remember someone in our online gallery, please contact us using the details on [page 4](#). Let us know what you decide.

Will writing services

Seeing a solicitor to help write your will can reassure you that your estate will be passed on in the way that you wish. It may be useful to have the following prepared for your solicitor:

- A list of what you own, including your assets (e.g. savings) and liabilities (e.g. mortgages)
- A list of the loved ones and charities you wish your estate to be passed onto.
- An idea about what type of gifts you would like to leave e.g. pecuniary, residuary or specific.
- Who you have appointed as the Executor(s) to your will.

We understand that leaving a gift to MDS UK is an important decision and we appreciate gifts of all size as they all make a real difference our services.

If you have any questions relating to leaving a gift in your will please contact us using the details on **page 4** and we can discuss your options with you in more detail.

Our commitment to you

When you pledge a legacy to MDS UK, we also make commitments to you:

- We will understand and respect that your family and loved ones come first.
- We will answer any questions you have regarding leaving a gift in your will quickly and honestly.
- We will treat your family and loved ones with the utmost respect.
- We will ensure that any legacy gift is used wisely and effectively and brings the best outcomes for people who need our services long into the future.
- If you would like your gift to go to something specific, please contact us using the details below so we can discuss if this will be possible.
- We will never ask for details of your legacy gift and we don't expect you to share this information with us if you do not wish.
- We will respect your right to change your mind when leaving us a legacy gift at any time.
- We will respect your privacy and treat your information confidentially.

Letting us know

We appreciate that leaving a legacy gift is a big decision, and that the content of your will is very personal. However, if you could let us know, whatever your decision, we would be very grateful. This means we can say a very big thank you if you choose to leave us a legacy.

Any information you provide will be treated in the strictest confidence, will not be shared with third parties and is not legally binding.

MDS UK details

You will need to provide the following details when setting up a legacy gift:

Full charity name: MDS UK Patient Support Group

Address: Haematology, Bessemer Wing, King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS, UK.

Registered charity number: 1145214

Contact details

For fundraising/giving related queries or to request a hard copy of this brochure, please contact Jan Edwards (Fundraising Officer) on fundraising@mdspatientsupport.org.uk.

Alternatively, you can call us on 020 7733 7558.

Thank you so much for considering leaving a gift in your will to MDS UK. Your support will go a long way to ensuring we can continue to assist MDS patients and their loved ones as well as funding vital medical research.