



MDS UK Patient Support Group
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Gifts in Wills

Leaving a gift in
your Will
to MDS UK

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Table of Contents

<u>Welcome</u>	3
<u>What is MDS?</u>	4
<u>Your gift</u>	5
<u>How will your gift be used?</u>	6
<u>Why should you make a Will?</u>	7
<u>How to leave a gift in your Will</u>	8
<u>Preparing to write your Will</u>	10
<u>Free Will writing service</u>	12
<u>Our commitment to you</u>	13
<u>MDS UK charity details</u>	14
<u>Contact us</u>	15

Welcome to your Gifts in Wills Guide

Thank you so much for considering leaving a gift in your Will to MDS UK.

MDS UK Patient Support is the only national charity to focus solely on patients, caregivers and families affected by Myelodysplastic Syndromes and CMML (a rare form of leukaemia). As a small organisation MDS UK is totally reliant on the generosity of its supporters and fundraisers.

Gifts in Wills to MDS UK help us to support and empower those living with these rare conditions, as well as giving MDS and CMML patients a voice when it comes to vital research into future treatments, and in lobbying for excellent quality of care.

This guide outlines the support that MDS UK provides, the different ways you can leave a legacy, our commitment to you and the essential details you'll need if you're considering leaving a gift to us.

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 your solicitor or Will writer.

Every year around 2,500 patients in the UK are diagnosed with Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS), a rare blood cancer which causes bone marrow failure. It mainly, though not exclusively, affects people over 60 and causes a variety of symptoms including overwhelming fatigue, frequent infections and bleeding. Most people have never heard of MDS, and GPs may only see 1-2 cases in their lifetime, so raising awareness of the disease is vital and a big part of what MDS UK sets out to achieve.

What does MDS UK provide?

- Information about the disease including current treatments and clinical trials
- A website covering all aspects of MDS
- A dedicated 'closed' Facebook group
- Online patient-to-patient support meetings
- Online meetings featuring specialist speakers
- Patient information leaflets on a full range of related topics
- Support for medical research into MDS, including funding
- Support for specialist nurses to attend conferences
- Practical advice and support by email and telephone
- A voice for MDS in the medical community

Your gift

Once you've prioritised your family and loved ones, perhaps you could consider remembering MDS UK in your Will.

To a small charity like ours, gifts of any size make a real difference. In leaving a legacy to MDS UK, you are directly supporting those affected by the disease in the future, as well as helping to fund vital research into its causes and treatments.

A significant number of our legacy gifts come from those who want to express gratitude for the care and support they themselves received, or that MDS UK provided to their loved ones. We guarantee any gift you give will be used to provide and enhance support for MDS and CMML patients for years to come. A legacy that you and your loved ones can be truly proud of.



How will your gift be used?

You may wish to leave a gift to support MDS UK's area of greatest need. 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 15 to discuss whether we can fulfil your wishes.



Why should you make 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”). Making a Will is one of the most important things that we all need to consider at some point in our lives.

A Will ensures that your family, loved ones and the causes close to your heart are the ones to benefit from your estate. If you pass away without a Will, someone else, probably the government, will decide who inherits your property, possessions and money. This may not be in line with your wishes.

Making these arrangements 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. It is wise for anyone with any form of wealth, or estate to make a Will, whatever their circumstances.



How to leave a gift in your Will

There are four main ways you can leave a gift to MDS UK when managing your estate.

A share of your estate

Residuary gift

This is a chosen percentage of your estate, minus any debts or liabilities. This is good way of doing it if you know you want to give a gift, but are unsure what your future finances might look like.

A cash gift

Pecuniary gift

This is when you leave a set sum of money. You can do this by informing your solicitor that you would like to make a “pecuniary bequest.”

A specific gift

Gifts of specific items

This is when you leave a gift that’s not money - like a house or items such as jewellery, shares, or furniture. This is known as a “specific legacy.”

How to leave a gift in your Will (cont'd)

A postponed gift

Reversionary gift

This is when you leave a gift to someone for a period of time and then the gift goes to another beneficiary, such as a charity, when the person passes away.



Preparing to write your Will

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's 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, specific or postponed
- Who you have appointed as the Executor(s) to your Will

Preparing to write your Will (cont'd)

We understand that leaving a gift to MDS UK is an important decision. We appreciate gifts of any size as, to a small charity like MDS UK, every few pounds can truly make a difference.

For example,

£100 enables us to send welcome packs (booklets and information) to ten newly-diagnosed patients for free

£1,000 funds ten online Patient Support Meetings, often featuring specialist speakers, where up to 100 patients or caregivers hear about the latest MDS/CMML developments and get the chance to ask questions directly to the UK's leading haematology and blood cancer specialists

If you have any questions relating to leaving a gift in your will please Contact us using the details on Page 15 of this brochure and we can discuss your options with you in more detail.

Free Will writing service

In line with most other charities, MDS UK offers our members the opportunity to make a standard will for free through a bespoke partnership with leading legal firm **Darwin Gray**.

MDS UK will cover the cost of a basic individual will, or mirror wills in the case of a couple, for our members or supporters. Where we hope you would feel able to leave the charity a gift in your Will, please note there is no obligation to do so.

Your Will would be created for you by **Darwin Gray's** professional and fully-experienced legacy team. In the case of more complex wills, involving the setting up of Trusts or Lasting Power of Attorney for example, we would still cover the equivalent cost of a basic or mirror will, with the additional costs being covered by yourself.

For more information
Please email info@mdspatientsupport.org.uk or call us on 020
7733 7558.

**Darwin
Gray**

Solicitors
Cyfreithwyr

Our commitment to you

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

- We understand and respect that your family and loved ones come first
- We will treat your family and loved ones with the utmost respect answering any questions they may have promptly and professionally
- We will ensure that any legacy gift is used appropriately and effectively to secure our services for those who need them, long into the future
- We will never ask for details of your legacy gift and we will not expect you or your representatives to share this information with us if you prefer not to do so, although we would like to say thank you. Please be assured, information you provide will be treated in the strictest confidence, will not be shared with third parties and is not legally binding
- 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 with the utmost confidentiality

MDS UK charity details

Full charity name

MDS UK Patient Support Group

Address

Springboard Business Centre
24 Ellerbeck Way
Stokesley Business Park
Stokesley
TS9 5J

Registered Charity No.

1145214 (England and Wales)
SC055405 (Scotland)

Contact us

Any questions please contact us at

Email: info@mdspatientsupport.org.uk

Alternatively, you can call us on **020 7733 7558**

Or write to us at

Springboard Business Centre

24 Ellerbeck Way

Stokesley Business Park

Stokesley

TS9 5J

Thank you

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

