



Pledging a gift in your will to Autism Speaks will help us discover the causes of autism

Our aim...

is to raise funds to accelerate biomedical research to determine and understand the causes of autism spectrum disorders; and through that understanding to discover and promote new ways of improving the quality of life for all those affected.

Please help us

to achieve our aim by making a gift to Autism Speaks in your will, benefiting people affected by autism alive today and children yet to be born. A gift in your will to will help us plan our research to find the causes of autism.

The legal terms used in will making may be confusing. At the end of this leaflet is a glossary of the most common words and phrases that you will come across.

Making a will

Making a will and making sure it is up to date is important. When you are making your will there are several things to consider, for example:

- making a list of your assets
- deciding how to distribute your estate
- appointing executors of your estate

Follow the steps here to make sure your will reflects what you want to do with your estate.

Take a look at what you own

List your important assets. This might include your house, savings, insurance, car and other items of value.

Who do you want to leave these assets to?

You can then decide to leave a share of what you own to, for example, your spouse, family or friends. You can also leave a legacy to a charity such as Autism Speaks after you have ensured provision for those nearest to you.

Decide what sorts of gifts you want to leave

You can leave any kind of gift: a share of your estate, an amount of money, or particular items. There are different types of legacy but the most popular ones are:

Residuary legacy

Usually shown as a percentage of what is left over when all cash legacies and gifts have been made; debts and expenses deducted and any inheritance tax paid in full. This type of legacy rises in value with inflation and is the best possible gift you can leave to Autism Speaks.

Pecuniary legacy

a specified amount of money

Specific legacy

a gift, that can be in almost any form eg. house, land, jewellery, cars etc.

Contingent gift

a gift that has certain conditions.

Your solicitor can advise you on the benefits of different types of legacy.



Decide on your executors

You need to choose between one and four people who will be able and willing to ensure the wishes expressed in your will are put into practice. An executor might be a relative, a friend, your banker or your solicitor. In most cases a solicitor can draft a simple will from around £100. You should not try to write your own will or use someone who is not properly qualified. Only you know what you want to happen to your estate and there must be no chance of misinterpretation.

Make a gift to Autism Speaks

If you would like to remember us in your will, your solicitor can use the following wording for a residuary bequest and/or a pecuniary bequest. This will ensure that your wishes are followed accurately:

Residuary bequest

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 Autism Speaks (Charity 1107350) of North Lea House, 66 Northfield End, Henley on Thames, RG9 2BE and the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer or the proper officer for the time being of Autism Speaks shall be a complete discharge to my Executors.

Pecuniary bequest

I give the sum of _____ pounds to Autism Speaks (Charity 1107350) of North Lea House, 66 Northfield End, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 2BE and the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer or other proper officer for the time being of Autism Speaks shall be a complete discharge to my Executors.

Make sure your will is correct and up to date

Your solicitor can advise you whether your will is executed and witnessed properly. Your solicitor can also advise you on how to change an existing will either by re-writing it or by adding a codicil. You can update your will at any time to reflect changes in your circumstances such as the sale of your house, or the death of family or friends.

You can leave the original copy of your will with your solicitor or your bank for safekeeping. Alternatively, for a one off fee of around £15 you can deposit it with:

The Safe Custody Clerk
Probate Department
Principal Registry of the Family Division
High Court of Justice
First Avenue House
42-49 High Holborn
London WC1V 6NP

Tel: 020 7947 6000 to request an information pack and special envelope in which to place your will.

Always keep a copy of your will and a note of where the original is in an easily accessible place in your home. A lost will is no use to anyone.

Help us now by telling us your plans

Please complete and return this form to Autism Speaks, North Lea House, 66 Northfield End, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 2BE, UK

I have remembered Autism Speaks in my will with:

A residuary legacy . Pledge amount (optional)	£ _____
A specific legacy. Pledge amount (optional)	£ _____
A pecuniary (cash) legacy. Pledge amount (optional)	£ _____
A contingent gift. Pledge amount (optional)	£ _____

(You do not have to specify amounts but it helps with our financial planning)

Name

Address

Phone

Email

Tick the box if you would like to be added to our mailing list.

Glossary

Beneficiary:	Any person or organisation to whom you wish to leave a legacy or bequest (gift) in your will.
Codicil:	Any change or addition that you make to your will. It must be signed and witnessed in the same way as the original will.
Contingent bequest:	A gift in your will which depends upon the occurrence of an event which may or may not happen. For example a bequest to a charity which applies only if other beneficiaries named in the will die before the testator (person who made the will).
Estate:	The total sum of your possessions, property and money (minus debts) left after your death.
Executor(s):	Person(s) appointed by you to make sure the wishes in your will are carried out.
Intestate:	The condition of dying without having made a will.
Legacy:	A bequest or gift left in your will. It can be in the form of money, property, stocks and shares or possessions.
Life interest:	The right of a beneficiary to benefit from part or all of an estate for his or her lifetime.
Pecuniary bequest:	A gift of a fixed sum of money in your will.
Probate:	the legal procedure after death which confirms your will is valid and confirms the executors' authority to carry out your wishes.
Residuary bequest:	A gift of the remainder of the estate after all other bequests have been made and debts cleared.
Specific bequest:	A particular named item left as a gift in your will - for example, a piece of jewellery.
Testator:	A person who has made a will.