

Leave a Legacy of Laughter



Creating your Will is a very personal experience and your wishes are the most important part. Your family and loved ones will be your priority, but many people also wish to leave a legacy in their Will.

In this guide we'll show you how leaving a gift in your Will can leave a lasting legacy of laughter for children today, tomorrow and for years to come.

All children deserve laughter

Millions of children are admitted to hospital each year. They will often experience feelings of isolation, fear, boredom and even guilt for being the reason their parent's and loved ones are so worried.

At the Theodora Children's Charity, we believe that all children deserve laughter. Our Giggle Doctors are specially trained to work within a medical environment and provide music, joy and laughter to the 33,000 children they visit every year.

Our Giggle Doctors help to create happy memories for sick and disabled children at 21 hospitals, 3 hospices and 2 specialist care centres. Our aim for the future is to be able to provide magical Giggle Doctor visits to all children at the time when they need it most. Your legacy could help us get closer to providing all children the chance to laugh and have fun during difficult and frightening times in their lives.



“Last week my daughter was admitted to our local hospital as her legs stopped working after a minor car crash. It was very worrying and our local hospital transferred us to Evelina Children's Hospital for examination. Dr Easy Peasy visited us - her timing couldn't have been any better. We had literally just arrived and were feeling very sad for the other children on the ward and very sorry for ourselves. My daughter is 14 and, not wanting to sound rude, we didn't really want Dr Easy Peasy to stop at our bed. Well, Dr Easy Peasy was exactly what we needed. I cannot put in to words what she did for us. She was absolutely fantastic and we will never forget her. My daughter was discharged yesterday too and so we are very fortunate. Your work as a charity certainly appeals to all ages - thank you from the bottom of my heart. xx”

Sadie, a parent

How your gift can make a difference

Your Will is your chance to provide for the people and causes you care about the most...

Leaving a gift in your Will to the Theodora Children's Charity is one way you can make sure that the laughter lives on. Your legacy, however large or small, will help us continue to visit sick and disabled children, making sure the joy and magic of Giggle Doctor moments continue for years to come.



£540 funds Giggle Doctor visits at three hospices for one month

£6,483 funds our programme at three hospices for one year

£7,485 funds Giggle Doctor visits at 20 hospitals for a week

£9,407 funds Giggle Doctor visits to two specialist care centres for one year

£15,581 funds one Giggle Doctor for a year

£32,434 funds our Giggle Doctor programme at 20 hospitals for one month

Leaving a gift in your Will

If you have decided to leave a gift in your Will, the following guide will give you all the information you need to begin your legacy journey.

Getting started

We strongly recommend that you consult a solicitor or another professional advisor who is qualified to make Wills when making or changing your Will. This is important to ensure your Will is valid and your wishes are carried out. To find your nearest Solicitor, you can call the Law Society on **020 7242 1222** or visit **www.lawsociety.org.uk**.

Before you make your Will

Before you meet with your Solicitor, it is important to have a clear idea about how much your estate is worth and how you would like to divide it among the people you care about and the causes you would like to leave a gift to.

We recommend starting with a list of your assets, including any outstanding debts you might have, and making a rough estimate of the value of each.

Different types of gifts

A residuary gift: This is where you set aside a portion of all your remaining estate after funeral expenses, debts and other gifts in the Will have been paid. **Many people choose to leave this kind of gift because it helps make sure their loved ones are taken care of first.**

A pecuniary gift: This is a gift of a specified sum of money. All gifts make a real difference to the children our Giggle Doctors visit, but it's worth remembering that the eventual value of this type of gift is likely to be impacted by inflation.

A specific gift: This is a gift of a specific, named item. For example, it could be property, a piece of jewellery, a work of art or a car.

Will wording

Below is some suggested wording which you can use to leave a gift to us in your Will:

I leave to the Theodora Children's Charity of 40 Pentonville Road, London, N1 9HF (Charity Registration Number: 1094532) the sum of £ _____ (or specify percentage of estate) for its general purposes and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or other duly authorised officer shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors.

When you've completed your Will

Make a copy of your Will, and make sure someone you trust knows where your original Will is kept (your legal adviser will often store it for you free of charge, or you can use the Probate Registry). Please do not send a copy of your Will to the Theodora Children's Charity.

If you have left a gift to the Theodora Children's Charity in your Will, we would love to hear from you and thank you for your generous support. You can call Amy on **020 7713 0044** or email **amy.calcutt@theodora.org**. We promise that all information will be treated with discretion and confidentiality.



“My daughter and I wanted to do something to help Louis and other children like Louis, who end up in hospital lots of time in pain, having to have all sorts of treatments. Louis really inspired us: his experience was something positive out of all the negative. It was nice to do a positive thing. It is easy to be incredibly negative and depressed about the situation but because of the Giggle Doctors, there is something that can help and has such an impact on people.”

A Supporter

If you have already made a Will

If you already have a Will but would like to update it to include an additional gift, you can do this by completing a Codicil form. This saves the hassle of writing a brand new Will.

However, if you wish to leave Theodora Children's Charity a percentage of your estate rather than a specific gift, it is strongly recommended that you redo your Will rather than use a Codicil document.

Key factors to remember:

- It is important that the Codicil is properly signed and witnessed to ensure the document passes probate
- It is important to check the Codicil with your solicitor or legal advisor
- Witnesses must be over the age of 18 and of sound mind
- You have to sign the Codicil with two witnesses present
- Both witnesses must sign the document at the same time
- The witnesses don't have to be the same witnesses who signed your original Will
- Witnesses cannot benefit or be married to anyone benefitting from your Will
- Do not attach your Codicil to your Will, as any marks on your Will can invalidate them

The Codicil can then be passed on to the person holding your Will and safely filed together.

We strongly recommend that you run your Codicil past your solicitor to make sure this ties properly with your Will. In addition, it would be a good idea to discuss your decisions with your next of kin and notify them that you are leaving a gift in your Will to a charity.

A blank Codicil document can be picked up from a newsagent's, stationers or post office for just a few pounds. If you have any doubts or queries, we recommend you contact your solicitor.

"I was watching two Giggle Doctors work with a young girl in intensive care, who also had a learning disability. They were very gentle and responsive to the girl's needs. They sang together and she smiled, which the parents were over-joyed with, saying she hadn't smiled in weeks."

**Jamie Wilcox, Head of Volunteer Services & Patient Experience,
Great Ormond Street Hospital**



Thank you

Your support will make a huge difference, helping us to make sure sick and disabled children get to enjoy the joy and laughter only a Giggle Doctor visit can provide.

Once you have had time to reflect and speak with your family and loved ones, we would love to hear from you. This will allow us to keep you updated with how your donation will make a difference and also thank you for your generous gift.

You can call Amy on **020 7713 0044** or email amy.calcutt@theodora.org. We promise that all information will be treated with discretion and confidentiality.

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