

**Help make  
every moment  
count, with a  
gift in your Will.**



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Please find enclosed your free Will offer and free bookmark.

"Helen & Douglas House still support us now. There is a sort of Thomas-shaped hole in our family and not a day goes by that we don't miss him. Helen & Douglas House is the only organisation that understands that. They were there through the happy times, not just the sad times, and that is just as important now."



Ellie, Richard, Cath  
and Thomas

# Welcome

Thank you for considering leaving a gift in your Will to Helen & Douglas House – these very special gifts are vital to the support we give local families.

When a child is terminally ill, we help make this desperately difficult time just a little easier for children and their families. In a comforting cocoon of care, we provide 24-hour medical, emotional and practical support, helping families create happy memories in the last years, weeks, or days they have left together.

As a charity we rely almost entirely on donations, and gifts of any size make a big difference to the support we can give our families. The gifts people kindly leave in Wills are essential, funding one in three of the children we care for, so thank you for considering a gift in your Will.

**Writing a Will can be an easy and quick process – and thanks to amazing solicitors and online Will writers, you can get it done free of charge.**

Inside, you'll find information on everything you need to make a Will, including FAQs and details of how to write your Will for free. And you'll hear from some of the families we've been able to help, thanks to these gifts.

Thank you so much for taking an interest in gifts in Wills,

**Emma Murphy**  
Legacy Manager



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# Help make every moment count

When you hear the unimaginable news that your child is terminally ill, it can feel like your whole world is falling apart, and you need all the love and support you can get.

With nurses caring for babies and children around the clock, parents get the chance to be 'mummy and daddy' again. So there's more time for cherished games, giggles, quiet time; play, stories and songs. And in the midst of exhaustion and grief, we help parents cope with their child's final days, and bereavement too.



Parents, brothers, sisters, and grandparents are all part of our family. And at the toughest time of their lives, we're there so families don't have to face the unthinkable alone.

At Helen & Douglas House, the world's first children's hospice, we rely on your support to keep our doors open. It costs over £3 million per year to run our hospice and 83% of this comes from people like you. It means all gifts of any amount make a difference to the children and families we help here at the hospice in Oxford, or as part of our outreach nursing care.





"Coming to Helen House has made all the difference in the world to Josh and us as a family. Josh loves it there, but more than that, by helping us as parents and giving us respite, advice and emotional support and medical guidance, we are so much better able to care for Josh."  
Clare, Josh's mum.

# Making your Will

If you are considering leaving us a gift in your Will, thank you very much. It's a very special way to ensure families facing the toughest of times can have the support they need to create happy memories together.

Whether you're writing a Will, or updating an existing one, leaving a gift to charity is easy, and we're always here to help.

Here we answer the questions that people often ask...

## Are Wills expensive?

The cost varies depending on the way you create your Will, but thanks to arrangements we have made with local solicitors and online Will writers Guardian Angel, you can create or amend a Will completely free of charge. Just see the enclosed leaflet for more information.

## If my circumstances change, can I change my Will in the future?

A relatively simple change to your Will can be done through something called a Codicil. This is an official and legally binding appendix which is 'read' alongside your Will.



Nathan

Gifts in Wills fund the care of **one in three** of the children we help.

## How long does it take to write a Will?

It's often much quicker than you'd think. First, you need to gather information about your finances and decide who you want to leave things to. After that, it can be a very quick process, taking literally minutes or hours to complete your Will.

## How can I write my Will?

You can contact a solicitor, or Will advisor, and write your Will together in person or over the phone. Or you can create it using an online service like Guardian Angel, who we have partnered with. Please see the enclosed leaflet for more information about our free Will writing services, which covers all these ways of writing a Will.

## What type of gift should I consider?

There are two main types of gift you can leave:

- **a fixed amount** - which can be any sum of money depending on your circumstances.
- **a percentage of your estate** - which remains after other amounts of money or property are given to others. Formally called a residuary gift, it can be from 1% to 100% of your estate – whatever feels appropriate for you.



Finley

If you have any questions about leaving a gift in your Will, please get in touch with Emma Murphy on **01865 799150** or email [legacy@helenanddouglas.org.uk](mailto:legacy@helenanddouglas.org.uk)



Joanna and Beatrice

"I have chosen to leave a gift in my Will as a thank you for the superlative care, physical, emotional and respite, that Helen House gave to our daughter, Beatrice, and our family for six years. I hope that a gift to Helen & Douglas House will help them to continue giving their incomparable and compassionate care to other life-limited children and their families."

Joanna Swindells Carr



# Our promise to you

We respect that the decision to leave a gift in your Will is special and personal, and you will want to consider this decision in your own time. And to reassure you about the personal gift you are considering leaving, we make the following promises:

- We promise to use your gift wisely.
- We absolutely recognise your loved ones come first.
- We will not put any pressure on you to give a gift in your Will – it is entirely your decision.
- You never have to tell us your intentions – we respect your right to privacy.
- Your Will writer will only share with us information of your pledge if you give them consent to do so, and we will not share it with anyone outside the organisation without your consent.
- We fully understand that personal circumstances change and there might be a time when you take us out of your Will.

There's no need to inform us if you leave a gift to us in your Will, but if you choose to tell us, it will enable us to plan for the future and to say thank you, which we like to do.

You're also very welcome to come and visit us so that you can see first-hand, the vital work with local families that your gift would be supporting.



Emma with Stanley



Mary and Jack

# Martha's story

The death of a child, of any age, brings heartbreak and devastation. Sophie and Ed's first baby, Martha, was born in a critical condition and she passed away in Sophie's arms when she was 5-days-old.

"One day, unexpectedly, you might get knocked over by a wave and you won't see it coming, and when you do you will be so grateful that there is a place like Helen & Douglas House." Ed, Martha's dad.

"We will forever treasure the time we were able to spend with Martha, thanks to this wonderful place." Sophie, Martha's mum.



Ed, Martha & Sophie



Martha and Ed

Gifts in Wills fund the care of **one in three** of the children we help.



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# We're here to help



*Twins Roman and Harley with  
their grandmother at the Hospice*

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please get in touch with Emma Murphy on **01865 799150**  
or email **[legacy@helenanddouglas.org.uk](mailto:legacy@helenanddouglas.org.uk)**

You can also find more information about gifts in Wills  
on our website at **[www.helenanddouglas.org.uk/gift](http://www.helenanddouglas.org.uk/gift)**

Thank you.

**Contact Us:** Helen & Douglas House, 14A Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RW

**T:** 01865 799150 **Office hours:** 9.00 - 5.00pm Monday to Friday

**E:** [legacy@helenanddouglas.org.uk](mailto:legacy@helenanddouglas.org.uk) **W:** [www.helenanddouglas.org.uk](http://www.helenanddouglas.org.uk)

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## Your Free Will offer

Here at Helen & Douglas House, we're delighted to offer our supporters an exclusive opportunity to write, or update, a simple Will for free. You can do it face to face, over the phone, Zoom or online - whichever suits you best.

### How does it work?

We've partnered with **Guardian Angel** to help you write your Will for free online, over the phone, or in person at a National Bereavement Service approved solicitors near you.

To find out more visit [www.helenanddouglas.org.uk/gift](http://www.helenanddouglas.org.uk/gift) and to write your Will online for free click through to or go straight to [www.gawill.uk/h&d](http://www.gawill.uk/h&d). Alternatively you can do your Will over the phone or arrange a face to face appointment with a solicitor by calling **0800 7734014** and you will be able to set a time. The free code to use is **H&D-FREE** - you'll notice, if you do it online and use the links above, it'll automatically discount the Will for free at the end.

We've also partnered with **Derek Peedell from Woodstock Solicitors** to write your Will for free during the month of September. Just ring Derek on **07557 919 120** or email [derek.peedell@woodstocklaw.co.uk](mailto:derek.peedell@woodstocklaw.co.uk) and he'll explain what you need to do.

If you have any questions about leaving a gift in your Will, please get in touch with Emma Murphy at Helen & Douglas House on **01865 799 150** or email [legacy@helenanddouglas.org.uk](mailto:legacy@helenanddouglas.org.uk)



**guardian angel**

*Woodstock Solicitors*



# Your Free Will offer

## Why do this today?

1. It's quick and easy - it could take just 15 minutes!
2. It's safe - Wills are legally binding and checked by legal experts.
3. It's free!
4. You will have peace of mind that your affairs are in order.
5. This can be done online, in person or over the phone.



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Thank you for considering leaving a gift in your Will to Helen & Douglas House. You are under no obligation to leave a gift to us if you take advantage of this offer, but a gift of any size will make a difference to the support we can offer local families.



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