

Writing your Will

Frequently asked questions



We're committed to a future where nobody has to face sight loss alone and where blind people across Notts can live life to the full!

Will Writing

1. What you need to prepare

Whether you decide to use the free Wills services or not, we recommend you consult a qualified solicitor or member of the Institute of Professional Will Writers when making your Will. As a general guideline, this could cost between £100 and £200 for an individual Will, and £150-£300 for a mirror Will.

As Wills are complex legal documents, it's important to get the wording correct, so that any gifts you leave can be given to the right people without delay. Using a professional can save you time and money in the long run.



Before you meet with your solicitor or Will Writer, it's a good idea to do the following:

- Think about everything you own, and any debts you might have - such as outstanding loans. You could write them as a list, for ease. This will help you work out the value of your 'estate' (the combined value of all your money, property, and possessions) so you know what you can afford to leave
- Decide on what gifts you want to leave, and to whom
- Choose your executor. This can be a friend or family member you trust to carry out your wishes, but you could also choose a professional such as your solicitor or an accountant, if they are happy to be your executor
- Create a letter of wishes to help those who may make your funeral arrangements.

Doing this preparation will ensure your appointment runs smoothly, and having a good overview of your financial affairs beforehand will allow your solicitor to advise you on any Inheritance Tax liability on the gifts in your Will.



Get the wording right

If you choose to leave a gift in your Will for My Sight Notts, it's important to make sure we can receive the gift you decide on, whatever it may be, we ask that you use our full name, charity number and address:

“Nottinghamshire Royal Society for the Blind” T/A “My Sight Nottinghamshire”

“Registered Charity Number 511288”

“My Sight Nottinghamshire 26-28 Heathcoat Street, Nottingham, NG1 3AA”

Your chosen solicitor or professional Will writer can help get the right wording in your Will. If the wording in the Will is not right, we might not be able to receive the gifts you have left us.



Keep your Will safe and up to date

Once you've met with your solicitor or Will writer to create your Will, it's important to keep it in a safe place. Many people choose to keep their Will with their solicitor, but you can keep it wherever you feel most comfortable. You should make sure your executor is aware of where your Will is, so they can carry out your wishes when the time comes.

It's also important to review your Will every few years, or after any major life event, such as getting married, moving house, or having a grandchild.

If there are any changes you'd like to make when reviewing your Will, we suggest writing a new one. You could also make a small change with a 'codicil' - a document that acts as an addition, amendment or supplement to the original Will, but this wouldn't be possible through the Free Wills Network. A codicil often costs the same as having a Will written by a solicitor, so it may be easier to use the Free Wills Network to get a new Will written, as a codicil can become separated from your original Will. If this happens, your executor and beneficiaries won't be able to see or act on the on the changes you have made.



FAQ's

What is the Free Will Service?

Our Free Will Service allows anyone 18+ to easily write or update a simple Will for free. Most people who use the service leave a gift to My Sight Nottinghamshire. Their support is helping us improve the lives of people living with sight loss.

What makes a Will valid?

There are certain requirements that a Will must meet, to ensure it is valid. Your Will must be on paper, a 'soft' copy of your Will on a computer is not valid. Your Will must be signed by you, in the presence of two witnesses, who also sign your Will in your presence. These witnesses can be anyone over 18, neither can be a beneficiary of your Will, nor the spouse or civil partner of a beneficiary of your Will.

What gift can I leave in my Will?

You can leave a share of your estate, a lump sum or valuable items to My Sight Nottinghamshire in your Will. All gifts can help fund our work for future generations of blind and visually impaired people.

Why leave a gift to My Sight Nottinghamshire?

By supporting My Sight Nottinghamshire in your Will, you'll play a crucial part in funding our work of supporting people with sight loss in the local area for generations to come.

What about Inheritance Tax?

Currently, if your estate is worth more than £325,000, the executors of your Will may have to pay inheritance tax at 40% on anything over this threshold. A way of reducing this bill is to leave 10% or more of your estate to charity as you may then qualify for a reduced rate of inheritance tax (36% rather than 40%) giving you more control over your own money.



Supporting Nottinghamshire's Blind and Visually Impaired People to get more out of life



Seeing beyond sight loss

Get in touch
0115 9706 806

Website: www.mysightnotts.org.uk

Email: Info@mysightnotts.org.uk



@Mysightnotts



My Sight Nottinghamshire



@Mysightnotts



My Sight Notts

Registered charity: **511288**