The Brain Charity

| Authenticity | Commitment | Courage | Curiosity | Kindness | Optimism

Thinking of the future



Leave a gift in your will to The Brain Charity

Support our mission to help people living with all forms of neurological conditions to live longer, healthier, happier lives.

www.thebraincharity.org.uk/gifts-in-wills







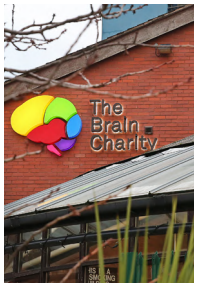












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“

I don’t feel like an outsider when I’m at The Brain Charity. I feel I can be myself and I don’t feel like I’m different. Everyone is very kind and I’ve made lots of friends.

Sarah

who lives with a brain injury



Neurological conditions affect 1 in 6 people in the UK, more than cancer and heart disease combined.

17%

of our fundraising income since 2022 has been from gifts in wills, helping us to support thousands of individuals and families affected by neurological conditions.

About The Brain Charity

There are over 600 known neurological conditions and The Brain Charity is the only UK charity providing support for every single one.

We provide practical information and advice to individuals of all ages, including support with finances, employment, aids and adaptations, and fighting discrimination. We deliver the only free counselling service in the UK dedicated to those living with neurological conditions and carers. We host social activities every single week in our community centre, offering a fun and accepting environment in which to socialise and pick up new skills.

We hope this guide will help you to understand how to write your will and, should you choose to leave one, the impact a gift to The Brain Charity can have.

Our key services

- Practical help
- Emotional support
- Social activities

Why do I need a will?

Writing your will is easier than you think. It's something many of us put off doing, or struggle to know where to start. For some of us, we may not think we have anything of value to leave, but that is almost never the case.

Having an up-to-date will is crucial for ensuring that your wishes are respected and your loved ones, including children, pets and other dependents, are taken care of according to your intentions.

Life circumstances can change rapidly, such as marriages, births, bereavements or shifts in your financial circumstances, and an outdated will might not accurately reflect your current situation or desires.

By keeping your will current, you can rest assured that your estate will be distributed as you intend, including any gifts to charity.

Leaving a gift to charity in your will can have additional benefits for the other beneficiaries of your estate:

If the total value of your estate exceeds £325,000, leaving at least 10% of it to charity can lower the Inheritance Tax rate from 40% to 36%. This not only benefits the charity but also ensures that a larger portion of your estate is used according to your wishes.

How to write your will

There are several ways The Brain Charity can help you to write your will. There is never any obligation to include a gift for The Brain Charity in your will, but we hope you will consider it to help us continue supporting people living with all forms of neurological conditions.

The Brain Charity is partnered with **Octopus Legacy** and **Kwil** to provide free will writing services. To learn more about Kwil, please visit our website: **www.thebraincharity.org.uk/gifts-in-wills**

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Write your will for free with octopuslegacy





octopuslegacy

The Brain Charity has partnered with Octopus Legacy to provide a free will writing service for our supporters which can be accessed online, over the phone or in-person.

To write your will online:

1. Visit **will.octopuslegacy.com/thebraincharity** and take Octopus Legacy's quick quiz to make sure their free will is right for you.
2. Make your free Octopus Legacy account – keep your password somewhere safe.
3. Write your will with expert guided questions to help you ensure your will covers everything you need it to.
4. Use code **THEBRAINCHARITY-FREE** at the checkout and there will be nothing to pay.
5. Your will is then checked by Octopus Legacy's experts to ensure your wishes are clear, before being sent to you to sign and become legally binding.
6. You can make any updates to your will for free in the first year, then for just £10 a year after that.

To write your will over the phone:

1. Call Octopus Legacy's friendly team on **020 4525 3605**
2. Request to make your will over the phone.
3. The team will talk you through the process, give you advice and draft your will based on your wishes.
4. Make sure to specify that you are using The Brain Charity's free will offer.
5. Your will is then checked by Octopus Legacy's experts to ensure your wishes are clear, before being sent to you to sign and become legally binding.

To book a face-to-face appointment to write your will:

1. Call Octopus Legacy's friendly team on **020 4525 3605**
2. Request to book a face-to-face appointment to write your will.
3. The team will ask for your location and identify the will writer closest to your area.
4. Arrange a date for the will writer to visit your home.
5. Write your will in the comfort of your own home with an expert will writer.
6. Make sure to specify that you are using The Brain Charity's free will offer.

The Brain Charity has given me so much. I worked with the employability team, took part in confidence coaching, and found a community that truly supports me. It helped me find a new purpose.

Ste

who lives with cerebral palsy



Use a solicitor

You can also find a solicitor to write or update your will whenever is convenient to you. It is worth noting that the cost of writing your will with a solicitor may vary depending on the complexity of your will and the solicitor you choose.

The Brain Charity has several trusted legal partners who can help you to write your will, although again costs may vary. Please get in touch with **legacies@thebraincharity.org.uk** and they will refer you to the partner best suited to your needs.

I already have a will

If you have already written your will but would like to include a gift to The Brain Charity, you can add a codicil.

A codicil is an official alteration which must be signed and witnessed when added to your will. There is no limit to the number of codicils you can add to your will. In fact, it is recommended you review and update your will at least every five years, particularly if you have experienced life events such as getting married, divorced or having children or grandchildren.



How to leave a gift in your will

To leave a gift in your will to The Brain Charity, you will need to include the following information:

Charity Name: The Brain Charity

Charity Number: 1114999

Charity's Registered Address: Norton Street, Liverpool, L3 8LR

There are different ways you can include The Brain Charity in your will, so it is important to be clear what kind of gift you intend to leave.



Residuary gift

A residuary gift is a share of your estate. Your estate is the value of everything you own after taxes, costs and gifts to family have been subtracted.

As a residuary gift is a share of what remains in your estate after costs, you do not need to worry about changes to your financial situation or keeping a specific amount aside to fulfill your bequest.

You can leave as little as 1% of your estate as a legacy gift and a residuary gift will not devalue over time.

You can either direct that your estate be shared equally between multiple beneficiaries, or you can leave a specific percentage to individual beneficiaries, including any charities you would like to support.

Under current UK law (June 2025) leaving 10% or more of your estate to charity could have Inheritance Tax benefits.

Suggested wording:
I give 10% of my residuary estate to The Brain Charity (registered charity no: 1114999) of Norton Street, Liverpool, L3 8LR.

Pecuniary gift

A pecuniary gift is a donation of a fixed amount of money, eg. £10,000.

Suggested wording:
I give the sum of ten thousand pounds (£10,000) to The Brain Charity (registered charity no: 1114999) of Norton Street, Liverpool, L3 8LR.

Specific gift

A specific gift is leaving a particular item of financial value, such as a house, stocks and shares, artwork or jewellery.

Suggested wording:
I give my shares in XYZ Company to The Brain Charity (registered charity no: 1114999) of Norton Street, Liverpool, L3 8LR.

Please note that the suggested wording on these pages does not represent legal advice.



What can a gift in my will do?

Every year at The Brain Charity, we:

Support around **3,000** people with neurological conditions to better understand and manage their diagnosis.

Deliver over **2,500** counselling sessions to support mental health and reduce the symptoms of anxiety, depression and stress.

Provide over **3,500** hours of social activities to prevent social isolation and give our clients the opportunity to try new hobbies and learn new skills.

Successfully help our clients apply for over **£2 million** in annual benefits, among other financial support and advice.

Open our community centre and cafe **every weekday** so our clients have a safe and warm hub to socialise, exercise and receive support.



We do all of this for free; but as our services expand, so do our costs. We estimate it could soon cost £2 million each year for us to continue operating at this level, and we want to continue to grow to support more people with neurological conditions, their families, friends and carers.

That is why we truly appreciate you considering leaving a gift in your will to The Brain Charity. Your gift will help us create a future where we can support everyone with a neurological condition for years to come.

A gift of any size can have an incredible impact.

£1,000 — could fund social activities for 200 people living with neurological conditions, including yoga classes, art sessions and ukelele lessons.

£5,000 — could fund a piece of accessible equipment for our Neuro Gym.

£10,000 — could fund a week of our Information and Advice service, providing support to approximately 46 individuals at the point of diagnosis in hospital.

£55,000 — could fund counselling sessions for over 300 individuals struggling with their mental health.

£160,000 — could fund four years of our life-changing Brain Changer Arts Project, providing physio and occupational therapy through arts to children and young people.

£450,000 — could fund our Information and Advice service for a full year, supporting thousands of families across the UK with financial, emotional and legal support.

If it wasn't for the support of The Brain Charity, I don't know what situation I'd be in now. It is so much more than just a charity – it is part of my life now. They have helped me so much.

Rupak

who lives with multiple sclerosis



Our promise to you

We appreciate that making decisions about your will is a hugely personal and sensitive process. We make the following promises to give you peace of mind if you do decide to leave a gift to The Brain Charity.

- **We will never put you under any pressure to leave a gift to us in your will.**
- **Your legacy donation will always be used to help people with neurological conditions to lead longer, healthier, happier lives.**
- **Your loved ones come first – we will always respect what your will says.**
- **You don't have to tell us about your decision to leave a gift – we respect your right to privacy.**



Christine's story:

"It took 34 years for my rare condition to be diagnosed – I feel free at The Brain Charity as I can be myself"

Mum-of-two Christine went her whole life not understanding why she felt different.

The 66-year-old had experienced muscle tremors, jerky limbs and unexplained falls since childhood, but it took her 34 years to be diagnosed with **Hyperekplexia (HPX).**

The extremely rare genetic neurological condition causes balance problems, jerking movements, extreme muscle rigidity, unstable walking, cognitive difficulties and exaggerated startle reactions.

Christine had been variously told her symptoms were due to growing pains, clumsiness, postnatal depression and mental illness.

She was eventually diagnosed with HPX in April 2022, and her condition is now manageable due to 'miracle' medication which has stopped her limb jerkiness.

She said: "My doctor said I was the first person they'd ever met with HPX which just shows how rare and difficult to diagnose this disease is.



Christine



Due to never having a diagnosis, Christine was unable to apply for welfare benefits.

She first came to The Brain Charity in 2022 for help applying for Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

While she was initially rejected, our staff helped Christine take the case to a tribunal which was successful, and she was awarded PIP in 2023.

She was able to use the money awarded to go on her first holiday in 19 years, a trip to Berwick-upon-Tweed (pictured above).

Christine now regularly attends the charity's programme of activities and events.

She added:

"Coming to The Brain Charity, it was overwhelming to be with so many disabled people, but it was also so freeing because I could just be myself."

"Since my HPX diagnosis, my whole life makes sense."

The confidence coaching was amazing. It helped me feel more confident and able to go out and do more things.

Hollie

who is autistic



Let us help you get started...

Still not sure where to start when it comes to your will?
Here are some things to think about:

- **Decide who you would like to have as your trusted executor. This could be a friend, relative or solicitor.**
- **Make a list of family and friends you want to name in your will and consider what type of gift you might want to leave them.**
- **If you have children under the age of 18, decide who you want to be their legal guardian.**
- **If you have pets, it's a good idea to make arrangements for who will look after them.**
- **Once you have ensured your loved ones are included, consider supporting your favourite causes and charities.**
- **You may want to make requests for your funeral in your will, such as opting for donations to charity in lieu of flowers.**





Thank You

From everyone at The Brain Charity

Contact us

You don't have to tell us if you have decided to include a gift to The Brain Charity in your will.

However, we would love to hear from you so we can thank you and, if you would like, to keep you up to date with our work.

You can get in touch with our friendly fundraising team by:

Emailing legacies@thebraincharity.org.uk

Calling 0151 433 3484

Filling in the contact form on our webpage: thebraincharity.org.uk/gifts-in-wills

**Visiting us at our centre on Norton Street, Liverpool, L3 8LR.
(Open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)**

Our roadmap to success

A timeline of The Brain Charity's history so far



START

1992

A charity called Mersey Neurological Trust is first registered as a 'community neurology service' by Doctor Ian Williams, Medical Director of The Walton Centre.

1993

The Glaxo Neurological Centre first opens its doors to establish a community neurology centre where people with neurological conditions and their families could find information and access support. Initially there are just three staff including original CEO Maureen Kelly.

1994

The Glaxo Neurological Centre is officially opened by the Duke of Gloucester.

2005

The charity's trustees approached Glaxo and asked for permission to change the name. This was granted and an open competition was held to allow people with neurological conditions to choose a new name.

2006

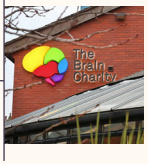
A new charity was registered with the new name – Neurosupport. It was registered as the successor to the Mersey Neurological Trust and the name was changed on the building. The name and logo was the work of a relative of a client with a neurological condition.

2010

Following a review, Neurosupport began a closer relationship with The Walton Centre, with charity staff based within the hospital as link workers.

2014

After 21 years, Maureen Kelly retired as CEO of Neurosupport and Nanette Mellor became CEO.



2015

Neurosupport was officially renamed as The Brain Charity.

2016

A café opens at the centre to provide healthy, brain-boosting food to clients and members of the public. In 2017, it relaunches as The Brain Food Café.

2017

The Brain Charity is awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services – the equivalent of an MBE for charities.



2018

The Brain Charity wins the 'Managing Turnaround' award at the 2018 Charity Governance Awards.

2020

The COVID-19 lockdown closes The Brain Charity's centre and our staff switch to providing food parcels for vulnerable clients and running online activities.

2021

October: The Brain Charity's website relaunches.
December: The Brain Charity is featured on a UK-wide BBC TV fundraising appeal 'Lifeline' which is presented by Sir Michael Palin.

2022

The Brain Charity scoops two more prestigious awards, being named Disability Champion at the Steve Morgan Foundation 20th Anniversary Awards, and Organisation of the Year at the LJMU Students' Union Society and Volunteering Awards.



2023

After 9 years, Nanette Mellor left as CEO of The Brain Charity and Pippa Sargent became CEO.

2025

The Brain Charity's new 2025 - 2030 strategy launches.

To be continued...

AUTHENTICITY | COMMITMENT
COURAGE | CURIOSITY
KINDNESS | OPTIMISM

@TheBrainCharity



The Brain Charity
Norton Street
Liverpool, L3 8LR

The Brain Charity is registered as a charity (No: 1114999) and a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (No: 05741930)
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