



Crisis

Together
we will end
homelessness

**Ending
homelessness
through
your Will**



Your Will is a powerful tool.

It is a way for you to change the future for the people you care about – and to help end homelessness for generations to come.

This guide tells you more about Crisis, and how you can support our work by making a donation in your Will. Thank you for taking the time to consider this special kind of gift.

By remembering Crisis in your Will, you can help more people take their first steps out of homelessness, and help continue our campaign to end the homeless crisis in Britain once and for all.

Right now, around 236,000 people across Britain are experiencing homelessness, and if we don't take action, this number will continue to rise. Everyone has the right to live with dignity and respect, but this is not possible without access to decent and secure housing.

We know what it will take to end homelessness, and with your help we will.



Jon Sparkes
Chief Executive

About Crisis

Crisis is the national charity for homeless people. We are committed to ending homelessness.

Every day we see the devastating impact homelessness has on people's lives. Every year we work side by side with thousands of people, to help them rebuild their lives and leave homelessness behind for good.

Through our pioneering research into the causes and consequences of homelessness and the solutions to it, we know what it will take to end it. Together with others who share our resolve, we bring our knowledge, experience and determination to campaign for the changes that will solve the homelessness crisis once and for all.

We bring together a unique volunteer effort each Christmas, to bring warmth, companionship and vital services to people at one of the hardest times of the year, and offer a starting point out of homelessness.

We know that homelessness is not inevitable. We know that together we can end it.



A history of changing lives

Crisis has been supporting homeless people for over 50 years. Any gift you leave to us will be in safe hands, and will have a real impact.

In the late 1960s, growing public awareness of the extent and severity of the homelessness crisis climaxed in widespread outrage when 12 million people viewed the BBC drama, *Cathy Come Home*. For the first time, politicians, homelessness groups, and social activists came together to mobilise support for homeless people and campaign for an end to the scandal. And so in 1967, Crisis was founded.

Ten years later, Crisis' campaigning resulted in the 1977 Housing (Homeless Persons) Act, which gave the first legal definition of homelessness. Even today, no other country gives homeless people the same legally enforced entitlement to housing. Crucially though, single people did not receive the same protection as families under the law.

Thanks to the backing of our supporters, Crisis continued offering warmth, companionship and the first steps out of homelessness to more people each Christmas.

The number of rough sleepers had fallen significantly by the early 2000s, in part due to the Government regarding recommendations made by Crisis and others on how to prevent homelessness. Ending rough sleeping completely began to look like an achievable goal for politicians. However, since then unaffordable rents, a lack of new homes being built and the rise of zero-hours contracts have all led to the number of homeless people, including rough sleepers, rising again.

A future of changing society

Today, Crisis supports people to leave homelessness behind for good. We do this through education, training and support with housing, employment and health. We work directly with homeless people, offering personal support, advice, courses and qualifications to help them rebuild their lives.

We are on the ground in 12 areas across England, Scotland and Wales and, thanks to the support of people like you, last year helped more than 11,000 people through our Skylight Centres.

As well as helping people who are experiencing homelessness, Crisis campaigns for the social changes needed to solve it altogether.

Homelessness is not inevitable. We know it can be solved. We have recently launched a plan to end homelessness, targeted at governments across Britain. By building political will and with the support of people like you, we know we can solve it for everyone, for good.

By leaving a gift to Crisis in your Will, you could help ensure that future generations do not have to experience homelessness.

Our promise to you

A gift in your Will is both personal and special. When you make such a gift to Crisis, we will make these promises to you in return:

- We will never put you under pressure to tell us more, or to decide quickly.
- We will always remember that your loved ones come first.
- We will answer any questions you have as quickly and thoroughly as we can.
- We will handle any gift you leave us sensitively, and use it wisely.
- You can change your mind at any time.
- You are welcome to come and see Crisis at work – just let us know.

Talk to us

If you have any questions about anything you read in this booklet, you can get in touch with George Shelley on 020 7036 2642 or wills@crisis.org.uk.

George's first experience of Crisis was as a volunteer over the Christmas period nearly ten years ago. Passionate about ending homelessness, he now works full-time with us, helping people support Crisis through gifts in Wills.

Leaving a gift in your Will

Donating to Crisis in your Will is an especially thoughtful thing to do and needn't be complicated.

Your Will is unique to you. These four simple steps will help guide you through the planning process:

- Write down what you own – property, savings, and valuables – and work out a rough value.
- Decide who you want to benefit – family members, friends – as well as Crisis.
- Decide what type of gift you want to leave to each – see below.
- Arrange to see a solicitor who can draft your Will formally. Or go to Farewill.com where you can get your Will written for free by using the code Crisis100.

There are two main types of gift:

- A percentage or fraction of what you own, e.g. one per cent of my estate. This is called a residual or residuary gift. These are worked out after all other gifts and expenses have been dealt with.
- A fixed sum of money, e.g. £1,000. This is called a pecuniary gift.

Your questions answered

How do I change my Will?

A simple way to change an existing Will is to use a codicil – a small addition to your Will, phrased in the correct way. To add a codicil, talk to a solicitor. Remember to keep the codicil in a safe place, along with your original Will.

How much do I need to give?

Any gift makes a difference. Don't be put off if you feel you do not have much to offer – your gift will really help.

How can I find a solicitor?

Contact the Law Society on 020 7320 5650 or visit www.lawsociety.org.uk and select Find a Solicitor to find a registered legal professional in your area.

Who should I choose as an executor?

It's up to you. You can choose an individual, a solicitor, a bank or an accountant.

Are there any tax benefits?

Charitable legacies are usually exempt from Inheritance Tax and currently, if you leave more than ten per cent of your estate to charity, Inheritance Tax is reduced further. Always consult a professional for financial advice specific to you.

How much does it cost to make a Will?

It varies, depending on how complex your Will is. However, the average cost is around £100.

To get a professional Will written for free online, go to Farewill.com and use the voucher code Crisis100.

Visit: www.crisis.org.uk/giftinwill

Call: 020 7036 2642

Email: wills@crisis.org.uk





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