



Crisis

Together
we will end
homelessness

LEAVE A GIFT ONCE. AND FOR ALL

Our guide to leaving a gift in your Will to help end homelessness



Welcome to your guide, here you'll find useful information about leaving a gift in your Will, and how it will help us end homelessness once and for all

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Homelessness is not inevitable.

Together we can end it

Everyone has the right to live with dignity and respect. But right now, increasing numbers of people are experiencing homelessness in Great Britain. If we want to make real long-term impact, we must create a more caring society that works for everyone.

There are lots of ways you can help achieve this goal, one of which is by leaving a gift in your Will. If you are already considering leaving a gift to Crisis, or want to find out more about the process, thank you. It's generous supporters like you who are helping us work towards a future away from homelessness.

People choose to remember a charity in their Will for a variety of reasons. Some find themselves reflecting on their lives and feeling grateful for everything they have achieved. And by leaving a gift in their Will to Crisis, they can help others who haven't been so fortunate.

A gift in your Will is both personal and special. To help you decide if it's the right thing for you and those close to you, we have created this guide. It tells you more about how Crisis supports people experiencing homelessness, as well as useful information about writing your Will.

If you have any questions or queries, I am always here to help.

Thank you.

George Shelley

George Shelley
Legacy Executive



ONCE. AND FOR ALL. LET'S END HOMELESSNESS. Please get in touch.
Contact **George Shelley** on  **020 7036 2642** or  **wills@crisis.org.uk**

We all need somewhere safe and secure to live

Crisis is the national charity for people experiencing homelessness; we can and do change the lives of individuals throughout Great Britain every single day.

We all need somewhere safe and secure to live, it's where we build our lives, plan for the future, feel relaxed and recuperate. But the constant pressures of rising rents and unstable employment can push people into homelessness. We work side-by-side with people, giving them the skills and confidence they need to rebuild

their lives and leave homelessness behind for good.

We do this through:



Mental health support



Courses and qualifications



Help with finding employment and housing

As well as helping individuals, Crisis campaigns for social change and works to positively influence government, local authorities and housing providers. By tackling root causes, we hope to put an end to homelessness for good.

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Together we are making a difference

For over 50 years, Crisis has been working with people who have experienced homelessness. But we have not done it alone.

Thanks to kind supporters like you, people who share our conviction that homelessness is an injustice, we can work to create a better future for all.

Every one of our supporters is unique, but we all share the belief that homelessness can and will be ended. Together we have already achieved some incredible things, and part of that is thanks to gifts in Wills.

By leaving a gift in your Will to Crisis, you can help change someone's life. Your lasting legacy could stop future generations from facing the same issues we see today.



Chris' story

There are many incredible people who are helping us put an end to homelessness. Chris is one of our valued supporters who has kindly remembered Crisis in his Will.

"There was a guy that worked for me, his marriage collapsed, and he ended up on the streets. We didn't know what had happened to him until someone saw him asleep in a bus shelter. It brought it home to me just how short that path can be, between living in a safe, secure and warm home, to literally being on the streets. It really struck a chord.

"During the summer, Morrisons were donating food to local causes. I was collecting food one day, and someone from work saw me coming out of the store with a big bag of pasta. She said, **'you should tell us all how we can help, and if you don't, you're preventing us from helping.'** So I emailed everybody at work and got a great response.

"Kindness unlocks things in other people, and in my experience, it's becoming more instantaneous. Collectively we can make a difference.

"Coming into this year, I decided I needed to sort my Will out, and I wanted a worthy charity to benefit. When I looked at Crisis' mission statement I thought, 'that's right, that's what we should be doing. **I thought it'd be complicated, but writing my Will was really, really simple. The whole thing happened in days.**



"In my experience, it isn't one trigger that pushes people into homelessness, it's a series of events, and now it feels inevitable that things will get worse before they get better. It's good to know that organisations like Crisis, with the approach they're taking, will make a difference to people who are homeless."

If you would like to write a Will that is an expression of who you are and the people you care about, as well as help end homelessness, get in touch with us today.



**“Crisis isn’t trying
to paper over the
cracks, it’s tackling
root causes.”**

Chris, Crisis pledger

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**Are you
ready to end
homelessness
once and for all?**

Planning your Will

Thank you so much for considering a gift in your Will to Crisis. We are so grateful to anyone who supports us in this way.

We understand that making a Will or changing an existing one might seem complicated, but it's easier than you might think. These simple steps will help guide you through the process:

What

Write down what you own (property, savings, valuables) and work out a rough value.

Who

Decide who you want to benefit (family, friends, charity).

Which

Pick which type of gift you want to leave each recipient:

Pecuniary gift – A specific sum of money, e.g. £1,000

Residuary gift – A percentage or fraction of your estate, e.g. 1/10 or 10%

How

Arrange to see a solicitor who can draft your Will for you. Or go to **www.farewill.com/crisis** where you can write your Will for free with the code:

Remember-Crisis

Any gift you leave to help support people experiencing homelessness will be gratefully received, and will have a **real and lasting impact.**

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**“If you don’t get
help, you escape
from what’s going
on inside you.”**

Laura, former Crisis member

Laura's story

Every year, Crisis works with thousands of people to support them on their journey out of homelessness. Laura is one of these individuals and this is her story.

Laura was studying art at University when her mum passed away from cancer. Laura struggled with the loss and turned to alcohol. She didn't get any help with bereavement or with her growing alcohol addiction. She said: "If you don't get help, you escape from what's going on inside you. That's what I did. I left to move to another city with a lot of sadness and pain inside. My alcohol addiction escalated. I went to a really bad place. I was sofa surfing between cities for between six months to a year. It made me feel really anxious and depressed.

"There was a lot of worry about what the next day would bring. It's so temporary. You are living on someone's sofa in their lounge, in their environment. People were nice to me, but you have no base camp, no place to belong and that's really hard.

"I tried to stop drinking, but suffered a seizure. I ended up in re-hab and when I left, because I had nowhere to go, I went into a dry women's shelter. That's where everything changed for me. There was a brochure with courses that Crisis were running, and I decided to enrol in the weekly art and podcasting classes.

"The courses have helped me grow in confidence, but I was also able to get practical support and work with business coaches. That has helped me secure my own flat and follow my passion for being creative.

"I'm trying to develop my illustration business now. I would never have had the confidence to do that without the support I've received from Crisis. I can't thank the coaches, volunteers and everyone who supports Crisis enough. It's totally changed my life."

By leaving a gift in your Will, you can help more people like Laura leave homelessness behind, once and for all.

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We're here to help

If you are considering a gift in your Will to help end homelessness, thank you. There are a number of ways that we can support you as you make your decision.

Talk to us

Our Legacy Executive George Shelley will be happy to have an informal, no-obligation chat about gifts in Wills. He can explain the process you'll go through and answer any questions you might have.

Finding a solicitor

If you're going to write a Will or change an existing one, you'll need a solicitor. The best place to find a registered solicitor in your area is through the Law Society. Just call **020 7320 5650** or visit **www.lawsociety.org.uk**

Write your Will for free

As a Crisis supporter, you can write your own Will for free by taking advantage of our offer with Farewill. Visit **www.farewill.com/crisis** to find out more. You can write your Will from the comfort of your own home in as little as 20 minutes, with expert support available if you need it. Just use the voucher code: **Remember-Crisis** when you checkout to get your Will for free.



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Our promises to you

- ✓ **We'll never put you under pressure to tell us more, or to decide quickly.**
- ✓ **We'll always remember that your loved ones come first.**
- ✓ **We'll answer any questions you have as quickly and thoroughly as we can.**
- ✓ **We'll 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.**

Important questions

What if I already have a Will?

It's important to review your Will from time to time, to make sure it still reflects your wishes. This can be a good opportunity to add a gift to Crisis. When you write a new Will it revokes any previous Wills. So if you used a solicitor to write your Will before, they will write a new one with any additional changes you request.

How much can make a difference?

Every gift makes a difference. Whatever you feel comfortable leaving really helps and will be gratefully received.

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 entirely up to you. You can choose an individual you know well, or a professional such as a solicitor or financial advisor. Please note that professional Executors may charge for their services.

Are there any tax benefits?

Charitable legacies are usually exempt from Inheritance Tax and currently, if you leave more than 10% of your estate to charity, Inheritance Tax is reduced further. Always consult a professional for financial advice specific to you.

How much will it cost?

It varies, depending on how complex your Will is. However, the average cost is between £100 – £200. To write your Will for free online, go to **www.farewill.com/crisis** and use the voucher code: **Remember-Crisis**.



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THANK YOU...

**For being part of a movement
to end homelessness**

**For making a meaningful,
long-term difference**

**For changing the lives of
individuals experiencing
homelessness**

As a valued Crisis supporter you are helping change the lives of so many people. Thank you for considering leaving a gift in your Will and helping us put an end to homelessness, once and for all.

**“ Kindness unlocks things
in other people, and in my
experience, it’s becoming
more instantaneous.
Collectively we can make
a difference. ”**

Chris, Crisis pledger

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