

## Your guide to leaving a gift in your will

Writing a will doesn't need to be a daunting process. To help you write or amend your will, we have compiled some Frequently Asked Questions and essential information to assist you with the process, before meeting your solicitor. We hope this guide will provide you with clear information which will show how easy it can be to add the gift of a donation in your will.

### Why should I make a will?

Making a will can seem like a daunting task, but is important in ensuring your loved ones are taken care of and your assets are protected and distributed as you want them to be. Making a will is also an opportunity to express your personal wishes, and a chance to make a gift or donation to a cause you care about.

### What types of gift can I leave?

- A **Residuary Legacy** can be a percentage or share of your estate, once all other payments and gifts have been made (this is your estate's residue). This gift does not lose value over time. If your will does not include instructions on how to distribute your estate's residue, the government will take ownership of distributing it.
- A **Pecuniary (Cash) Legacy** is a fixed amount of money. You can discuss with your solicitor the option of protecting the value of your gift by linking it to the cost of living, to ensure the value of your donation does not reduce over the years.
- A **Specific Legacy** can be specific items donated, such as personal possessions (property, jewellery, etc.) or shares.

### How do I calculate the value of my estate?

Your estate is essentially the sum total of everything you own (e.g. property, land, bank accounts) and everything you owe (e.g. mortgage). To calculate the exact total value of your estate we recommend consulting your solicitor, who will also be able to assist you in your will-making or will-altering process.

## **What type of gift** is best for MOAS?

Here at MOAS we are happy to receive any gifts from supporters of our work, as every donation really makes a difference to our ongoing missions.

However, if you want to select one gift, a residuary gift is the most effective way of supporting our work, as it allows you to take care of others in your life before donating to MOAS. Its value also tends to shift with inflation, so we can receive the donation you stipulated despite any shifts in the financial climate. We understand everyone has different responsibilities, so we recommend 1% or as much as you feel able to commit.

## **How can I make sure** my will is valid and my donation to MOAS is secure?

As your will is a legal document, we suggest ensuring your will is written with the support of a recognised solicitor.

## **Is it expensive** to make a will?

The cost of a will varies depending on how complex it is. A will is an important investment to ensure your family and loved ones are considered and your wishes are enacted. You can discuss the exact cost of your will with your solicitor.

## **How do I change** my will?

You cannot change your will once it has been signed and witnessed. So, the only way to amend a will is by making an official alteration called a codicil. A codicil is an addition or supplement that explains, modifies, or revokes a will or part of one. You must sign a codicil and get it witnessed in the same way as a will.

It is important that any changes to your will are officially recognised, and we therefore recommend using a solicitor to make any adjustments to your existing will.

## **What should I do** if I want to add a gift to MOAS in my will?

If you decide that you wish to add a donation to MOAS in your will, we suggest you talk to your solicitor to make the necessary amendments. We also ask you to let us know if you decide to remember us in your will.

## **Any questions?**

If you have further questions, feel free to email [info@moas.eu](mailto:info@moas.eu) and we will be happy to guide you through this process. You can also take a look at your local government's website for more information on writing a will.

**Please do get in touch if you decide to include us in your will.**