

A GIFT IN YOUR WILL CAN MAKE HISTORY

Greater choice at the end of life
could be your legacy and benefit
generations to come.



CAMPAIGN FOR
DIGNITY
IN DYING.

NO DYING PERSON SHOULD BE FORCED TO SUFFER AGAINST THEIR WISHES.

Gifts in Wills are vital to securing greater choice at the end of life

We believe that everybody has the right to a good death, which includes terminally ill, mentally competent adults having the option of an assisted death. We campaign to change the law to end the blanket ban on assisted dying across the UK.

Together, we will change the law. As a direct consequence of on-the-ground campaigning and lobbying from our members and supporters, parliamentarians across the UK have never been better informed or more willing to engage on the issue of assisted dying.

However, the basic fact remains - dying people in the UK still do not have access to the choice they want and need to ensure they are able to die on their own terms. Our ground breaking research has laid bare the cruel reality that for every year the government fails to change the law, thousands of people will die suffering, hundreds will take their own lives, and dozens will travel to receive an assisted death abroad. This isn't safe. This isn't fair. This isn't right.

“The best way I could make a difference is through donations in my Will. I thought for a long time about what organisations were important. My choices were Dignity in Dying and my local hospice. It is a small thing but the peace of mind it has created is immeasurable.”

Rachel, Wiltshire

THE IMPACT OF GIFTS IN WILLS

Thanks to our members and supporters, we are closer than we've ever been to law change. Since the last time assisted dying was in the House of Commons we have transformed the debate. The British Medical Association, following the lead of other medical organisations, have dropped their opposition to assisted dying and adopted a neutral position, opening the door for meaningful, substantive debate on this issue among doctors.

The Sunday Times, one of the country's most influential newspapers, has backed law change since 2021, as do the Mirror and the Express. Assisted dying is no longer a fringe, radical proposal but a mainstream and compassionate position held by people from all walks of life,

regardless of age, ethnicity, political party - even religious belief. Just as importantly, politicians, doctors and other public figures are increasingly recognising this to be the case. In short, an assisted dying law is a matter of when not if.

That's why gifts in Wills are so important - they allow the campaign to plan the high impact work we need to undertake to make law change happen. Gifts in Wills can represent up to a third of our income. People remembering us in their Will is absolutely essential to securing greater choice at the end of life.



“My parents left a generous legacy to Dignity in Dying and my wife and I have done the same in our Wills. We both feel very strongly that the campaign is getting closer to winning the battle for law change but to finally get a Bill through parliament it needs financial support as much as ever.

Dying without having made a Will can make things complicated for your loved ones. Making a Will is very straightforward and it's easy to change it should circumstances demand. If you take up Dignity in Dying's free Will offer, it won't cost you anything and you might just feel a sense of relief at having ticked this job off the list of things you know you ought to do.”

Cameron, Surrey

GIFTS IN WILLS HELP MAKE HISTORY.

Our journey begins

**DECEMBER
1935**

The campaign's roots began as the Voluntary Euthanasia Society. The initial meeting of the society was held at the British Medical Association, where proceedings were disrupted by 40 members of a Catholic youth association.

Suicide Act becomes law

**AUGUST
1961**

This Act of Parliament decriminalised suicide in England and Wales so that those who attempted to take their own lives would no longer be prosecuted. This law also created the crime of assisted suicide, which, to this day, is punishable by up to 14 years in prison.

Oregon, USA legalises assisted dying

**OCTOBER
1997**

The state of Oregon legalised 'aid in dying' for terminally ill mentally competent adults in 1997. In the 25 years since, there have been no cases of abuse and the law is widely recognised as working safely and well. Oregon's law has become the blueprint for safeguarded assisted dying laws, spreading to other US states and used as a model in every Australian state and throughout New Zealand.

Diane Pretty goes to the European Court of Human Rights

**APRIL
2002**

Diane Pretty had motor neurone disease (MND) and wanted to control the manner and timing of her death. Because of her condition, she needed help from her husband to die. She asked the Government to guarantee that her husband would not be prosecuted if he helped her. Diane lost her case in the UK courts and in Europe. After her death her husband, Brian, became a patron of Dignity in Dying and campaigns in her memory to this day.



© Diane Pretty

Dignity in Dying campaigns for change

**JANUARY
2006**

After 70 years of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society, the campaign became Dignity in Dying to demonstrate our renewed focus on campaigning for terminally people to have the right to die on their own terms.

Lord Joel Joffe's Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill

**MAY
2006**

Despite huge public support, this bill was defeated at Second Reading with a vote of 148-100. The Catholic Church described its attack on the Bill as the largest political campaign in its modern history. The Anglican Church was the largest financial donor to opposition group Care Not Killing.

Coroners and Justice Bill amendment

**JANUARY
2009**

In reaction to government reforms, Dignity in Dying made the case the law should distinguish between malicious encouragement of suicide and compassionate assistance to die. Lord Falconer tabled an amendment to make this distinction, 141 peers voted for this change but it ultimately failed by a 58% majority.

A Short Stay in Switzerland drama is broadcast

**JANUARY
2009**

BBC 1 aired A Short Stay in Switzerland, a drama based on the life and assisted death of Dignity in Dying campaigner, Dr Anne Turner. Dignity in Dying congratulated the BBC for producing the drama, which shone a light on the very real problems faced by dying people in the UK.

Debbie Purdy legal case wins

**JULY
2009**

Debbie Purdy had multiple sclerosis (MS) and took her case to the House of Lords, she argued it was against her human rights not to know if her husband would be prosecuted if he went abroad with her to die. She won, the judges said that the law was not clear enough and ordered the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to produce guidance on what makes a prosecution more or less likely.



© Debbie Purdy

Royal College of Nursing drops opposition

**JULY
2009**

The Royal College of Nursing moved to a neutral position on assisted dying following an extensive and detailed consultation process. Dignity in Dying welcomed the decision as sensible in light of public support for law reform and called on other Royal Colleges and the British Medical Association to consult their members.

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) publishes prosecution guidelines

**FEBRUARY
2010**

Keir Starmer KC then DPP published the final guidelines on factors for and against prosecuting cases of assisted suicide. The guidelines recognised

the difference between assisting someone to die out of compassion, at their request, and a malicious or self-serving act. Dignity in Dying welcomed the guidelines as a victory for common sense and compassion and called for the law to change.

Terry Pratchett documentary - Choosing to Die

**FEBRUARY
2010**

BBC2 screened the documentary *Choosing to Die* presented by Sir Terry Pratchett. The programme showed the last moments and death of Peter, who was terminally ill with motor neurone disease, at Dignitas in Switzerland. Care Not Killing accused the BBC of bias and orchestrated complaints against the broadcaster, but subsequent polling we commissioned showed 7 in 10 people thought it was the right decision to broadcast.

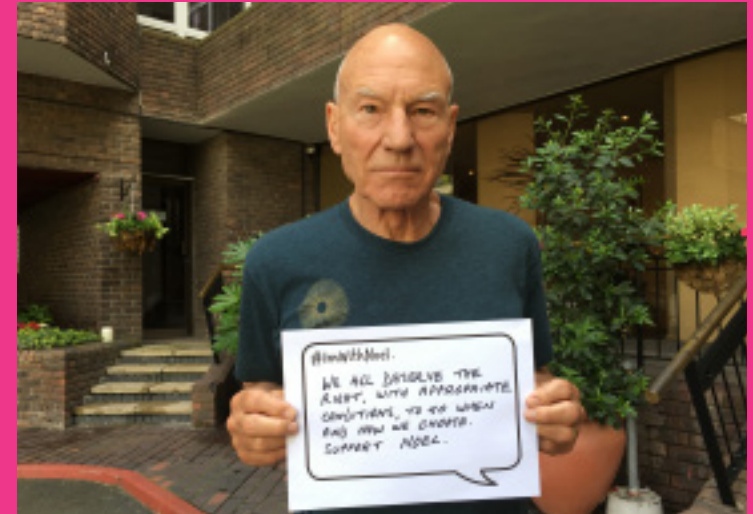


© Terry Pratchett

Sir Patrick Stewart joins the campaign change

**FEBRUARY
2011**

The legendary star of stage and screen Sir Patrick Stewart became a Patron of Dignity in Dying and went on to become one of the most passionate advocates for law change, participating in countless events and media interviews to raise the profile of the campaign.



© Patrick Stewart

Dr Ann Macpherson dies

**MAY
2011**

Founder of Healthcare Professionals for Assisted Dying (HPAD) Dr Ann Macpherson died from pancreatic cancer, aged 65. As well as being a powerful advocate for law change on assisted dying, Ann was the founder of the first - hugely successful - website where patients could share experiences of disease and one of the best known GPs in the UK.

MPs back Director of Public Prosecutions guidelines

**MARCH
2012**

Hailed as a victory for compassion, MPs unanimously backed Richard Ottaway MP's motion to support the DPP's guidelines at a Backbench Business Committee Debate in the House of Commons. This was the first debate on this issue on the floor of the Chamber since 1970, which saw MPs accept for the first time the circumstances in which an individual should not be prosecuted for assisting a loved one to die.

200 Brits assisted to die in 10 years at Dignitas

**OCTOBER
2012**

New figures released after 10 years of UK citizens travelling to Switzerland for assistance to die showed that 217 people died at Dignitas.

Commission on Assisted Dying recommends law change

**NOVEMBER
2012**

The Commission on Assisted Dying, chaired by Lord Falconer, found the current legal status of assisted dying in the UK to be "inadequate and incoherent". The Commission concluded that the choice of assisted dying could be safely offered to terminally ill people who are suffering at the end of life, publishing its finding in a wide-ranging report commissioned by the influential think tank Demos.

Supreme Court ruling in Nicklinson, Lamb and Martin

**JUNE
2014**

Dignity in Dying intervened in this case on behalf of dying people who want choice at the end of life. While the case was unsuccessful, the judgment made that clear that both Parliament and the DPP should look again at the issues.

Falconer Bill Second Reading

**JULY
2014**

Lord Falconer's Assisted Dying Bill passed its Second Reading in the House of Lords after almost 10 hours of debate. Further debates took place in November 2014 and January 2015, with two opposition amendments to derail the bill defeated by large margins. Due to a lack of parliamentary time before the impending General Election in May 2015, the bill could progress further.

Former Archbishop of Canterbury backs change

**JULY
2014**

"The fact is that I have changed my mind. The old philosophical certainties have collapsed in the face of the reality of needless suffering". Lord Carey went on to become a vocal campaigner for law change and speaks out on the issue to this day.

Dignity in Dying Patron Sir Terry Pratchett dies

**MARCH
2015**

Terry was a committed campaigner who did an enormous amount to bring assisted dying for terminally ill people to the public's attention. His essay, Shaking Hands With Death, was broadcast to millions as the BBC Richard Dimbleby Lecture in 2010.

First Briton to speak out from Dignitas calls on MPs to change the law

**AUGUST
2015**

Speaking to ITV news and The Sun newspaper from Switzerland, Bob Cole called for a change in the law before his assisted death. Bob was dying from mesothelioma, a type of cancer, and used some of his final moments to call for change: "I should be able to die with dignity in my own country, in my own bed. The law needs to change."



The Marris Assisted Dying Bill in the Commons

SEPTEMBER 2015

Rob Marris introduced an Assisted Dying Bill based on the bill that had been given its Second Reading by the House of Lords in 2014 and won votes earlier that year. Unlike in the House of Lords, where regular debates had been held on assisted dying for many years, this was the first ever debate on an assisted dying law in the Commons, and the first vote on the principle since 1997. The bill was defeated at its Second Reading after four hours of debate.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu speaks out

OCTOBER 2016

“People who are terminally ill should have the option of dignified and compassionate assisted dying”. The legendary, Christian, human rights leader, Desmond Tutu, 85, recorded a video saying he would want the option of assisted dying, following his change of heart on the issue.

Noel Conway challenges the law in court

MARCH 2017

Noel, who was living with terminal motor neurone disease, brought a judicial review in an attempt to change to the law on assisted dying. Noel was prepared to take his case all the way to the Supreme Court, but the court rejected his appeal. Noel's award-winning campaigning helped put assisted dying firmly on the political agenda in the UK.

The True Cost research uncovers how the UK outsources death to Dignitas

NOVEMBER 2017

Our ground breaking research revealed the flaws in the current law and that the average cost of an assisted death overseas is around £10,000. The cost of obtaining an assisted death in Switzerland denies the option to the majority of people in the UK.

**NOVEMBER
2017**

First Australian state legalises assisted dying

Victoria became the first Australian state to pass assisted dying legislation, after nearly three years of research and consultation. This set the wheels in motion for the remaining five Australian states to pass laws for terminally ill, mentally competent adults in subsequent years.

**FEBRUARY
2019**

Geoff and Ann Whaley call for change

On the day of his death at Dignitas, Geoffrey Whaley, who was diagnosed with terminal motor neurone disease in 2016, released an open letter telling of the torment he and his family experienced after police were anonymously notified of his plans. His wife Ann, who was questioned by police, went on to become one of the UK's most vocal campaigners for change.

**MARCH
2019**

Royal College of Physicians (RCP) drops opposition to assisted dying

Following a poll of its members, the RCP announced it would drop its longstanding opposition to assisted dying and adopt a 'neutral' position, following what was at the time the UK's largest ever survey of medical opinion on this issue.

**APRIL
2019**

Dignity in Dying Scotland campaign launches with huge public support

With a new poll showing almost 90% of Scots favour assisted dying, Dignity in Dying Scotland launched a nationwide campaign with newspaper and digital ads featuring people who are dying and those who have lost loved ones.

**MAY
2019**

Compassion is Not a Crime campaign launches

Launched by over 30 families from across the country, each devastated by the ban on assisted dying, our Compassion is Not a Crime campaign urged the Government to look at the impact of the law on people treated like criminals for acts of love. The campaign went on to call for a parliamentary inquiry looking at the evidence that the current law causes harm to dying people and their loved ones.

**SEPTEMBER
2019**

Richard Selley sends his final plea to the Scottish Parliament

On the day he was due to die at Dignitas, we released a video from Richard calling on MSPs to support an Assisted Dying Bill. Richard said, "It will be too late for me, but I hope that sometime soon people in my position will have the choice to have a peaceful death at a time of their choosing".

**SEPTEMBER
2019**

Mavis Eccleston not guilty of murder

In 2018, Dennis Eccleston was dying from bowel cancer. He and his wife of almost 60 years, Mavis, attempted to end their own lives together. Dennis died in hospital and Mavis, 80, made a full recovery following treatment. But Mavis was taken from the hospital by police in her night gown and slippers and arrested for murder. A jury eventually unanimously found Mavis not guilty. Her family went on to become vocal campaigners for law reform.

**SEPTEMBER
2019**

The Inescapable Truth - How seventeen people a day will suffer as they die

We published this ground breaking research to uncover the extent of untreatable suffering that dying people experience in the UK. This included data

from the Office of Health Economics which quantified for the first time how many people die in pain each year.

**OCTOBER
2019**

Police and Crime Commissioners call for inquiry

18 police and crime commissioners wrote to the Secretary of State for Justice, calling for an inquiry into the impact of the current law on assisted dying. This came just weeks after Durham Police and Crime Commissioner, Ron Hogg, announced his support for a change in the law having been diagnosed with terminal motor neurone disease

**NOVEMBER
2019**

New research explores the views of dying people

Our research revealed that seven in ten people with an advanced or terminal illness would support a change in the law on assisted dying. The research was funded by inspired by businessman and philanthropist, James Hughes-Hallett who died of pancreatic cancer in October 2019.

**JANUARY
2020**

New figures reveal one person a week travels to Switzerland for an assisted death

We released new data which showed banning assisted dying does nothing but drive the practice overseas. This forces dying people and their families to shoulder the £10,000 cost and risk prosecution.

**OCTOBER
2020**

New Zealand's assisted dying referendum backs change

New Zealand confirmed it would legalise assisted dying for terminally ill, mentally competent citizens, following the results of a nation-wide referendum. An overwhelming majority of the public (65%) voted

'Yes' in support of the End of Life Choice Act. The bill was approved by Parliament in 2019 and became law within a year of the public vote.

The Sunday Times calls for law change

**MAY
2021**

In an historic editorial, the UK's paper of record backed our calls for a change in the law. The editorial concluded: We believe passionately that everyone should be entitled to dignity in death and choice at the end of life, regardless of status. This country's legislation, passed 60 years ago, denies people these basic rights. It is time the law changed.

**JUNE
2021**

Scottish assisted dying bill lodged

Liam McArthur MSP for Orkney lodged his proposals in the Scottish Parliament for a new Members Bill to change the law on assisted dying in Scotland, paving the way for the first debate on prospective legislation in Holyrood for more than five years.

**SEPTEMBER
2019**

BMA drops opposition to assisted dying

The British Medical Association (BMA) announced its move to a position of neutrality on assisted dying, following the largest ever survey of medical opinion on the issue. When asked for their personal views on law change, 50% of doctors supported reform. We welcomed the move as neutrality as it respects all views and allows the BMA to fully engage in shaping our law.

**OCTOBER
2021**

Last Resort: The hidden truth about how dying people end their own lives in the UK

In a UK first, our research brought together estimates from multiple data sources, to show that between 300 and 650 terminally ill people take their own

lives in the UK each year. The research included new polling which revealed that seven in ten people recognise a distinction between a terminally ill adult seeking assistance to end their life, and suicide.

**OCTOBER
2021**

Baroness Meacher's Assisted Dying Bill

Baroness Meacher's Assisted Dying Bill passed unopposed following its Second Reading debate in the House of Lords, with high profile peers revealing they had moved from opposing to supporting law change. The bill then passed to Committee stage but ran out of time and was unable to pass all the necessary stages before the parliamentary session ended.

Jersey becomes first British Parliament to approve assisted dying

**NOVEMBER
2021**

Jersey's States Assembly, the island's Parliament, voted by 36 to 10 to support a proposition on assisted dying, paving the way for it to become the first British jurisdiction to permit this choice. Jersey's Council of Ministers then began the process of drafting legislation to be debated by the States Assembly.

Suicide risk for terminally ill people more than double general population

**APRIL
2022**

New data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showed that people with severe and potentially terminal health conditions are more than twice as likely to take their own lives as the general population.

**MAY
2022**

155k signatures on government petition

An official government petition calling for a change in the law on assisted dying smashed its target of 100,000 signatures, leading to a debate in the House of Commons. The petition secured support from high profile backers, including Sir Ian McKellen and Dignity in Dying patron Sir Patrick Stewart. At the debate in July MPs from all parties called for a parliamentary inquiry on assisted dying, with speakers in favour of reform outnumbering opponents by two to one.

Isle of Man votes for assisted dying bill to be brought forward

**MAY
2022**

The House of Keys backed the introduction of a private members' bill which could see terminally ill adults on the Isle of Man given choice at the end of life. A majority voted to allow Dr Alex Allinson's proposed law on assisted dying be drafted.

Scotland's Assisted Dying Bill consultation receives huge majority of support

**SEPTEMBER
2022**

Proposals for assisted dying received the highest number of responses to date for a consultation on a Members Bill in the Scottish Parliament, with a clear majority of respondents, 76%, fully supportive of the proposal. MSPs then signed the proposal so that the bill could formally progress.

First ever House of Commons inquiry into assisted dying announced

**DECEMBER
2022**

An assisted dying inquiry was announced by the Health and Social Care Select Committee. In reaction to this hugely significant development families, parliamentarians and campaigners calling for a change in the law urged MPs to ensure they listen to the voices of dying people.

**YOUR LEGACY COULD
BE AN IMPORTANT
PART OF AN HISTORIC
CAMPAIGN FOR...**



CHANGE.

MAKE YOUR WILL FOR FREE

Dignity in Dying supporters across the UK can make or amend their Will for free. There is no obligation to leave a legacy to Dignity in Dying, but we hope you would feel able to.

There are several free Will options to suit your needs:

Free Will with a local solicitor

You can make a free Will through the Free Will Network. You can use the network to find a local solicitor who can help you make a Will for free. There are participating solicitors across the UK.

To find out more, simply contact us on 0207 479 7730 or sign up online by visiting:
www.dignityindying.org.uk/freewill

Free Will online or over the phone

You can use Farewill, a specialist Will-writing company, to make a Will online or over the phone. If you choose to do this over the phone, all you need to do to get a Will for free is to notify the person you speak to at the start of the call that you are a Dignity in Dying supporter.

Call 020 8050 2686 to book a telephone Will appointment with Farewill or visit their website:
www.farewill.com/dignity-freewill



OUR SISTER CHARITY - Compassion in Dying

Alongside our sister charity, Compassion in Dying, we aim to improve dying in the UK by putting people in charge of decisions about their end of life.

At Compassion in Dying,
we believe a **good life** should
include a **good death**.

In a place you choose, with the people who matter. Having the care and treatments you want, and not the ones you don't. Because only you know what's right for you.

You are the best person to make decisions about the end of your life. So we support you to make informed choices, start honest conversations about death and dying with your loved ones, and record and revisit your wishes whenever you want, for free.

We're here for you, whether you're preparing for the years ahead or need us right now.

Planning can make things easier for family and loved ones. If you wait until it's too late, medical professionals may

make important decisions without knowing what matters to you.

We amplify people's voices, shift attitudes and drive changes to the healthcare system. So your decisions are heard, recorded and respected when it matters most.

Talk, plan and record your decisions. For your end of life, your way.

**Compassion
in Dying.**

Your end of life. Your way.

TYPES OF GIFT EXPLAINED

The five standard types of gift in a Will are:

Residuary Legacy

A percentage of the residue (remainder) of your estate, after the deduction of specific and pecuniary gifts, debts, taxes and costs.

Reversionary Legacy

A gift that passes to Dignity in Dying only after the death of a spouse or relative.

Specific Bequest

A gift such as property, stocks or shares.

Pecuniary Legacy

A specific sum of money.

Conditional Legacy

This addresses the possibility that if none of your named dependants survive you, your estate (or part of it) will be left to Dignity in Dying.

Professional legal advice is always recommended when you are drawing up or changing your Will. We can help you with this via our free Will service.

EXAMPLE WORDING FOR YOUR WILL

Some wording that may be useful for leaving a gift in your Will to Dignity in Dying:

Pecuniary bequest

"I give to Dignity in Dying of 181 Oxford Street, London W1D 2JT the sum of £..... for the general purposes of the organisation and declare that the receipt of the Secretary or other authorised officer for the time being of the said organisation shall be sufficient discharge to my Executors."

Residuary bequest

"I give the whole (or%) of my estate to Dignity in Dying of 181 Oxford Street, London W1D 2JT for the general purposes of the organisation and declare that the receipt of the Secretary or other authorised officer for the time being of the said organisation shall be sufficient discharge to my Executors."

Codicil

If you have already made a Will and wish to add a bequest to Dignity in Dying, this can be achieved by adding a Codicil to your existing Will. You should sign the Codicil before two adult witnesses (who are not beneficiaries of the Will) who will also sign. The Codicil should be kept with your Will but not attached with pins or staples, as this would invalidate it.

Our details

Dignity in Dying **is not a charity**, we are a not-for-profit membership organisation and a company limited by guarantee: Dignity and Choice in Dying: Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England & Wales no. 4452809 trading as "Dignity in Dying".

Compassion in Dying is our sister charity, registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales 1120203 and limited by guarantee no. 05856324

GLOSSARY

Making a Will can involve some legal jargon. Here are some basic definitions often used when talking about Wills and legacy gifts.

Administrator

A person appointed when either no Will can be found or there is no executor to carry out the intentions of the Will.

Assets

Generally the property owned by the person who died. For example, a house, household goods, savings, investments, a car, etc.

Beneficiary

Someone who is entitled to receive a specific gift, sum of money or share of the estate.

Bequest

A gift left in a Will.

Chargeable gift

A gift on which Inheritance Tax may be payable.

Chattels

Any item of personal property that can be moved from place to place. This includes contents of a house, furniture, belongings, or a car.

Codicil

A document that amends (rather than replaces) a Will. Codicils can adversely affect a Will, altering,

cancelling or adding provisions to it. It is more common to re-write the whole Will. It must abide by the same legal requirements as the original Will (such as the signature of the testator). And it must also have two witnesses who do not benefit from the Will in any way.

Conditional gift/legacy

A gift which only takes effect if a specific condition is met on your death. For example, "If my brother is married at the time of my death, my house should go to him. If he is unmarried, it should instead go to my sister."

Confirmation of the Estate (Scotland)

This document validates a Will and confirms to executors that they have authority to act.

Devise

A gift by Will of freehold property.

Disbursement

A payment made to a third party.

Estate

All the assets you own, minus the value of any debts that you owe.

Executor

A person or persons appointed in the Will to administer the estate.

Grant of probate (England, Wales and Northern Ireland)

This is the legal document that may be required to administer the Estate of someone who has died. With this document, Executors of the estate can then deal with all their legal, tax and administrative duties.

Guardian

Someone appointed to look after the interests of a child under the age of 18 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland or under 16 in Scotland.

Inheritance Tax

Tax payable when the estate is over the current inheritance threshold, up to date information is available online: www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax

Intestate

A person who has died and not left a legally valid Will.

Legacy

A gift of a specific item or cash sum left in a Will (except property).

Legator

Someone who has left a legacy in their Will.

Letters of administration

A document given by the Registrar

to appoint people to handle a person's estate. This document is used when:

- There is no Will
- No executors were appointed in the Will
- No executors are still living
- No executors are willing to carry out executor's duties

Liabilities

Financial obligations (such as debts or tax bills) which may need to be settled by your estate after your death.

Life interest

The right to enjoy for life (or until a specified time period has elapsed or an event has occurred). This can be either money or property which will eventually revert to the original estate in some way on death. Instructions are usually included in the original deceased's Will as to what should happen to the gift when the life interest ends.

Living Wills

A living will is a form which lets you refuse any medical treatments that you do not want to be given in the future. It will only be used if you lack mental capacity to make or communicate a decision for yourself. A living will is also known as an advance decision or advance directive, but the legal name is advance decision to refuse

treatment. For more information or to make a free living will, contact Compassion in Dying <https://compassionindying.org.uk>

Mirror Will

This is when a husband, wife or partner make almost identical Wills. For example, leaving everything to each other should one partner die. Or, if both die together, to another agreed beneficiary.

Moveable property

Anything other than buildings or land.

Pecuniary gift/legacy

A gift of money under a Will.

Personal representative

A personal representative is the executor or administrator managing the deceased's estate

Potentially exempt transfer (PET)

A gift in a Will that is exempt from Inheritance Tax if the donor lives for another 7 years after making the gift.

Predeceased

Someone who dies before the person who has made the Will.

Probate

Probate is the entire process of administering a dead person's estate. It involves paying any taxes and debts, as well as organising

their assets and distributing them as inheritance.

Residuary gift/legacy

A share, percentage or sometimes all, of an estate after all the other payments have been made. One of the advantages of a residuary gift is that it doesn't lose value over time. If you leave a proportion to us, you can still ensure other beneficiaries are provided for first.

Residuary beneficiary

A person entitled to the residue.

Residue

Everything that is left in the estate after all the liabilities, tax, costs and legacies have been paid.

Reversionary interest

Benefit from a trust property.

Single Will

This type of Will is written for just one person. But you can write a Single Will if you are in a relationship, married or in a civil partnership. In fact, if your partner already has a Will or their wishes differ to yours then a Single Will is often your best option.

Specific gift/legacy

A gift of a particular item, such as property, antiques, jewellery and shares.

Testator/testatrix

The person (male/female) who makes the Will.

Trust

Trusts are legal entities that allow someone to benefit from an asset without being the legal owner.

Trustee

The trustee manages the trust on behalf of the 'beneficiaries' - those who receive the income of the trust.

Variation, deed of

A legal document that allows the beneficiaries to change the terms of a Will, even after the person's death.

Will

A legal document by which a person states what they want to happen to their estate following their death.

Contact us

If you have further queries about leaving a gift in your Will to Dignity in Dying or Compassion in Dying, or would like to inform us that you have remembered us in your Will, please contact:

David Pearce, Director of Fundraising and Marketing

Email: info@dignityindying.org.uk

Telephone: 020 7479 7730

Address: 181 Oxford St, London, W1D 2JT

“My parents left a generous legacy to Dignity in Dying and my wife and I have done the same in our Wills. We both feel very strongly that the campaign is getting closer to winning the battle for law change but to finally get a Bill through parliament it needs financial support as much as ever”.

Cameron, Surrey