

How to make a gift in your will to Disability Services Australia

When making or updating your will there are several options you can choose for leaving a bequest to Disability Services Australia

1. **A percentage of your estate.**

This has the advantage of not being affected by inflation. The percentage may be any amount you choose up to 100 percent. The correct wording for such a gift is:

I give and bequeath% of my estate to Disability Services Australia (ABN 35 002 507 655) registered office, 76 Harley Cres, Condell Park NSW 2200 for its general purposes and declare that the receipt of an executive officer at the time shall be sufficient discharge of my executor's duty.

2. **The residue of your estate.**

The residue of your estate is what remains after all debts have been paid and all other gifts have been distributed, The correct wording for such a gift is:

After the foregoing provisions of my Will for my family and friends have been carried out, I give the rest and residue of whatever kind of my estate remaining, for the general purposes of Disability Services Australia (ABN 35 002 507 655) registered office, 76 Harley Cres, Condell Park NSW 2200 for its general purposes and declare that the receipt of an

executive officer at the time shall be sufficient discharge of my executor's duty.

3. **A percentage of the residue.**

I give and bequeath% of the residue of my estate to Disability Services Australia, registered office, 76 Harley Cres, Condell Park NSW 2200 for its general purposes and declare that the receipt of an executive officer at the time shall be sufficient discharge of my executor's duty.

4. **A specific bequest** is a gift of a specific sum of money you wish to donate. As this does not allow for changes in your estate, it should be reviewed on a regular basis. The correct wording for such a gift is:

I give and bequeath the SUM of \$ to Disability Services Australia registered office, 76 Harley Cres, Condell Park NSW 2200 for its general purposes and declare that the receipt of an executive officer at the time shall be sufficient discharge of my executor's duty.

5. **An alternative bequest.** Since it may be many years between the making of your will and its operation, you may wish to make provision that if any beneficiary cannot accept your bequest, Disability Services Australia will benefit.

6. **A perpetual Trust.** You can also make a bequest through a perpetual trust, which would provide ongoing financial support for years.

the meaning of your gift

Including Disability Services Australia in your estate plan is the ultimate in selfless giving. Your gift can help us continue to assist people with a disability achieve positive outcomes.

Please let us know when you have made a gift in your will to Disability Services Australia so we can thank you and continue to share our future vision. Everyone who designates Disability Services Australia as a beneficiary in their will or estate plan automatically becomes a member of the Star Partner Program. Members of this program are honored for their foresight, generosity and commitment to Disability Services Australia.



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OUR SOLUTION IS WORKING

"It is essential that your will is updated on a regular basis."



the importance of making a will

Statistics show that a large percentage of Australians still leave matters to chance and fail to make a will. Unfortunately by doing so their estate will be distributed using a formula decided by law, not by them. This can result in added expense, delays and inconvenience to family and friends during a time of grief. Important matters, such as the guardianship of minor children is left for state laws to determine. In some cases all assets will pass to the state.

Throughout our lifetime we have worked hard to provide as best we can for our loved ones. It seems a shame therefore to neglect the ultimate means of sharing our concern: a legal up-to-date will.

who should make a will?

Every person over the age of eighteen should have a legal up-to-date will.

It is essential that your will is updated on a regular basis. This is particularly important when a family situation changes such as a marriage, divorce or the birth of a child.

A will that does not reflect current family status may be invalid.

your will, **your say**

A carefully drafted will allows you to:

- Divide your estate the way you chose
- Make necessary arrangements for your family and loved ones
- Choose an executor to carry out the instructions in your will and settle your estate
- Name a guardian for children who are minors
- Provide for the charities you have supported throughout your life

Getting started

- The first step is to make a list of the family members, friends and organisations you want to benefit from the distribution of your estate
- Gather all relevant information on your assets, eg real estate, bank accounts, shares, life insurance, superannuation, cars, jewellery etc
- Decide who will receive your assets
- Decide on your executor(s) and make sure that they are agreeable to performing that role
- If you have children under the age of 18 years, decide who you wish to nominate as their guardian
- Seek qualified assistance from a

solicitor or trustee company in drafting your will. This will ensure your wishes are expressed in the correct legal format. Bear in mind that the solicitor or trustee company who assists you in drafting your will is likely to be the one your family approaches for guidance.

Witnessing a will

A will is invalid unless it is signed in the presence of two witnesses. A beneficiary or executor must not witness a will.

The effect of marriage and divorce

Marriage revokes a will unless the will is made in contemplation of marriage.

In some cases divorce revokes the appointment of the former spouse as executor and revokes any gift to the former spouse. This may lead to the will being invalid.

When should a will be reviewed?

- Upon marriage
- Upon separation
- Upon divorce
- Upon entering into a de facto relationship
- When amendments are made to the law (eg: tax, superannuation)

- After the purchase or sale of substantial assets
- Upon the birth of a child
- Upon the death of a beneficiary or executor
- Once children or grandchildren turn 18
- Every three years or so to make sure it reflects your current wishes

A minor change or addition to your will can be done simply by adding a codicil. This saves re-doing the whole will. It's an extra document that becomes part of your will and is best drawn up by a solicitor and needs to be witnessed. A codicil is a straightforward way of adding a gift to a charity in your will.

What is Power of Attorney?

Giving someone "Power of Attorney" means that you are giving them the power to look after your legal and financial affairs.

An enduring Power of Attorney allows someone you trust and nominate to act on your behalf in case you are no longer able to do so. For instance, your attorney will be able to operate your bank account if you are overseas. Should you ever become mentally incapacitated, this person would act on your behalf.

The unique value of a bequest

A bequest is a gift made through your will. A bequest to Disability Services Australia becomes an enduring memorial, multiplying itself in changed lives and the welfare of generations to come. Such gifts to Disability Services Australia ensure the continuance of essential services and the development of new ones.

Often a charitable gift can be given as a memorial to someone – a family member or other loved one. We are always pleased to honour such a request.

Everyone who leaves a bequest to Disability Services Australia will be honoured for their foresight, generosity and commitment.

Options of a bequest

There are many options for a bequest. A bequest can be a gift of:

- A stated dollar amount or a percentage of your estate
- The residue of your estate or a percentage thereof
- Real estate

