



student
christian
movement

Leaving a Legacy Gift to SCM in Your Will

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I make a will?

Making a will ensures that your wishes are carried out and that family and loved ones are provided for. It also helps to avoid misunderstandings later on.

How do I make a will?

Many people will consult with a solicitor specialising in wills or a legal adviser who will explain the process. You may wish to contact solicitors to gather information about fees beforehand.

I've already written a will – can I change it?

If you already have a will and want to add a gift, ask your solicitor or legal adviser to include a 'codicil' (a simple legal addition to your existing will). If you wish to make more extensive changes, you should seek further advice from your solicitor.

How can I protect my loved ones?

You need to decide who your beneficiaries will be before meeting your solicitor. Your first consideration may be your family and any special friends, then you may choose to leave a gift to SCM or other charities.

What are the legal words I need to use?

It depends on your gift (see below), which your solicitor or legal adviser can assist you with. An example of a **residual bequest** would be:

"I give XX% of the residue of my real and personal estate to The Student Christian Movement, registered charity number 1125640, Grays Court, 3 Nursery Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3JX, and I direct that the receipt of the treasurer or other proper officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my executors."

Does tax apply to legacies given to charities?

No, all gifts left to charities are exempt from inheritance tax. Your solicitor or legal adviser will provide you with further advice.

What types of legacies could I leave?

The three most common types of legacy gifts are:

- **Residuary Legacy**

This is a gift of part of your estate, after all the debts, costs and other bequests have been settled. It is not eroded by inflation.

- **Pecuniary Legacy**

This is a gift of a fixed sum of money specified in your will as a gift to a recipient.

- **Specific Legacy**

This is a gift of a specific item, such as a painting, land or shares.