A gift in your Will
Frequently asked questions

Will writing
Here you will find the answers to common questions asked about Will writing. It includes information about choosing executors, finding professional help with Will writing and what might happen if you don’t make a Will.

Do I need to write a Will?
Making a Will is important as it makes sure that the things you leave behind go to the people and causes you care about. Without a Will the things that you own are dealt with according to the ‘rules of intestacy,’ meaning that family, friends or organisations you may want to benefit may miss out.

Having a Will can be a way to have an influence on the future after you’re gone and might be a way of honouring the causes that mattered most in your life. It can also speed up the administration and reduce the costs that can arise without a Will, easing the process for the person overseeing your wishes.

Do I need a solicitor to write my Will?
We recommend using a solicitor to write or update your Will. Wills are so important that most people prefer to have a solicitor involved to ensure their Will is legal and valid. If you are looking for a solicitor in your local area, you can find one by contacting the Law Society. If you are in England or Wales please visit www.lawsociety.org.uk or if you are in Scotland, go to www.lawscot.org.uk

Who should I choose as an executor for my Will?
Your executor is responsible for handling your estate and ensuring your wishes are carried out, so it is important to choose someone you trust. Executors can be beneficiaries under the Will and often people appoint their spouse, civil partner or children as executors. We would recommend choosing at least 2 executors and that you check with your proposed executors that they are willing to take on this role, before naming them in your Will, as it can involve significant responsibility.

Can Penny Brohn UK help me write my Will?
Not directly, but we do work with the Law Vault, an online Will writing service which can be accessed via our website. To find out more go to www.

What type of gift can I leave to Penny Brohn UK?
We are so grateful you are considering leaving a gift in your Will. There are a couple of options for the type of gift that you can make:

A. A share of your estate which is called a residuary gift. This is a percentage share of your estate once all other legacies and expenses have been settled. This is the most valuable type of gift as it retains its value over time.

B. A fixed sum of money which is called a pecuniary gift. It can be any amount from a few pounds to thousands of pounds.

C. A gift of a specific item which is called a specific legacy. This is the gift of a specific item – such as a house, a painting or an antique.

How can I make sure my gift reaches Penny Brohn UK?
To make sure your gift reaches us it’s important that you include our full name, address and registered charity number as follows: Penny Brohn UK, Chapel Pill Lane, Pill, Bristol, BS20 0HH
Registered Charity Number: 284881
I've already written my Will. Can I amend it to leave Penny Brohn UK a gift?
Yes, you can ask your solicitor to make amendments to your Will at any time. To make changes to your Will you will need to complete a codicil form. If anything substantial needs to be changed you should make a new Will, revoking the former one. Never make alterations on the original document; either add a codicil or make a new one. Please remember to include our full name, address and registered charity number, on your codicil form using the details above.

Who can witness my Will?
Your signature to the Will must be witnessed by two people over the age of 18. They must both be present when you sign it. The witnesses must also sign the Will in your presence. There should be an ‘attestation clause’ in which the witnesses confirm that you have signed the Will in their presence. The witnesses or their spouses or civil partners must not benefit from the Will so it is important to select the witnesses from people you do not intend to leave any of your estate to.

Where should I keep my Will?
You should keep your Will safely at home or lodged with a solicitor or a bank, who may charge for this service. Alternatively it can be lodged for safekeeping at the Probate Registry (see section Usefull Organisations) – there is a fee of £20 to deposit your Will. Make sure you tell your executor/s where the Will is held.

How will my gift be used?
Any gift, no matter the size, will help us to support people living with the impact of cancer. Your gift will help transform a person’s cancer experience by helping them to feel more in control and less isolated. We want to be here for people when they need us most and over the coming years we plan to invest in three main areas:

1. Expanding what we offer – ensure our Bristol Whole Life Approach continues to be free, accessible, beneficial and reach all those that need it
2. Having the best staff – ensuring all our staff are highly qualified professionals and their unique skills ensure we are able to deliver high quality support
3. Growing our regional services – we want to grow our network of regional services to cover more of the UK and to increase the number of people we support.

Can I choose how my gift will be spent?
Yes. We understand that you may want your gift to go towards the National Centre in Bristol or to the service that supported you in your area. Just get in touch with us for more information on allocating your gift.

Do I need to let you know if I have left Penny Brohn UK a gift in my Will?
You don’t have to tell us if you have left a gift, but it is very useful for us to know as it will help us plan effectively for the future. We can also keep you updated on our progress and invite you to events and open days.

We’re here to help. If you have any questions about writing or updating your Will, or leaving a gift in your Will to Penny Brohn UK, call us on 01275 370074.

Useful organisations
Citizens Advice Bureau
National network of free advice centres
Tel: 08444 111 444
Website: www.citizensadvice.org.uk

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)
The Customer guide to Inheritance Tax is available from HMRC.
Tel: 0300 123 1072
Website: www.hmrc.gov.uk

Probate Registry. The website gives details of storing a Will for safekeeping: www.gov.uk/wills-probate-inheritance

Penny Brohn UK is the trading name of Penny Brohn Cancer care, a registered charity (No.284881) and a company registered in England (No.1635916).