

Frequently asked questions

Q. Why do I need a Will?

A. There are several good reasons!

1. If you do not have a Will, the rules of intestacy will apply. This means your assets will be divided between your relatives according to statutory rules, and may therefore go to people you do not wish to benefit when you die. In the event that you die without relatives, your estate then goes to the Crown.

2. You can appoint your own executors, who will put into effect the terms of your Will and these will be people you trust implicitly.

3. You can appoint guardians for any minor children you may have if you die before they reach 18 years of age.

4. A Will enables you to put in hand tax planning measures to avoid, as far as possible, Inheritance Tax depleting your estate.

5. If you are neither married nor in a civil partnership your partner will not inherit automatically on your death. By having a Will you ensure that your partner is provided for.

6. In a Will you can leave gifts to the people and organisations who have been important to you during your lifetime.

Q. Is it expensive to make a Will?

A. The cost for making a Will is around £100 for a single Will and £150 for mirror Wills. We would strongly advise that you use a solicitor or professional legal adviser when making your Will.

Q. What is the difference between a pecuniary gift and a residuary gift?

A. A pecuniary gift is a fixed sum of money. The relative value of this type of gift is eroded by inflation.

A residuary gift is a gift of all or part of your estate once all pecuniary gifts and all liabilities have been paid. It should be expressed as a percentage or share of your estate. This is the most effective gift you can make whilst ensuring that friends and family are also properly provided for, as proportionally its value does not devalue over time.

Q. How can I reduce the amount of Inheritance Tax paid on my estate?

A. If the value of your estate is greater than £325,000, anything above that sum is potentially liable for Inheritance Tax at 40%. By including a legacy to a registered charity, such as Butterfly Conservation, you will reduce the amount of Inheritance Tax paid on your estate. **Leaving a gift to Butterfly Conservation in your Will**

costs you nothing in your lifetime, and as a charity your legacy is exempt from Inheritance Tax.

From April 2012, it will be possible to further reduce the Inheritance Tax payable. By leaving 10% or more of your estate to charity, the Inheritance Tax rate will be discounted by 10%.

Q. Is there a recommended form of wording I should use if I decide to include a gift to Butterfly Conservation in my Will?

A. We have provided a suggested form of wording, which is downloadable from this website. Please see [How to include Butterfly Conservation in your Will](#).

If you decide to leave a gift to Butterfly Conservation please ensure you include our charity number and address in your Will. **Butterfly Conservation (Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 254937 and in Scotland SCO39268), Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QP.**

Q. Can I leave a gift to be used towards a specific area of Butterfly Conservation's work, such as education for young people?

A. Yes. However please remember conservation priorities do change over time. If possible please discuss your ideas with us first, especially if you are thinking of leaving Butterfly Conservation land, or a gift towards land purchase, as we would need to plan how the future ongoing costs of managing that land can be met.

Q. Can I make Butterfly Conservation an executor of my Will?

A. Yes, but we recommend that you consider appointing your solicitor or bank as the other executor.

Q. Must I tell Butterfly Conservation if I am planning to leave the charity a gift?

A. No. We would like to thank you, if you are planning to leave a gift to Butterfly Conservation, but recognise that writing a Will is a private matter, so please do not feel you have to let us know. However, if you plan to leave Butterfly Conservation a Gift in Kind, especially land, it would be helpful if you could discuss your intentions with us first.

Q. How can I ensure that donations are made at my funeral to Butterfly Conservation in lieu of flowers?

If you make your preference known by including it in your Will, your executors will make sure this happens. You might find the following wording useful as a suggestion to give to your solicitor.

"I request my executor to ensure that instead of flowers at my funeral donations are made to Butterfly Conservation (Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 254937 and in Scotland SCO39268), Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5QP."

Finding out more

If you would like to find out more about our work and how you can help Butterfly Conservation through a gift in your Will, please contact Helen Corrigan on 01273 453313, or email legacies@butterfly-conservation.org or write to her at Butterfly Conservation, Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QP.

Thank you. Your support is very much appreciated.