

BENEFITS OF HAVING A WILL

Making or changing your Will is straight-forward and inexpensive, and it could save you considerable legal and other costs. A Will can help you:

■ Make provision for your loved ones

Many people think that when they die all of their estate will go to their spouse even if they don't have a Will, but this may not be the case. Writing a Will ensures that your estate is distributed exactly in the way you would have wished, making sure that all the necessary provisions are made to benefit your loved ones, family and any causes that you support.

■ Pay less Inheritance Tax

By making a Will you could incorporate provisions to reduce the inheritance tax paid on your estate. If the value of your estate exceeds a specific amount it can be liable to tax at 40%*. By leaving the residuary of your estate above the tax threshold to the SVP and other charities, your family and friends will not have to pay inheritance tax. Charities are exempt from this tax, therefore less of your estate will go to the Inland Revenue and more will go towards helping those in need.

* Inheritance tax thresholds change in the Chancellor's budget

■ Make sure your wishes are carried out

It is a good idea to check your Will from time to time to ensure it is up-to-date. Changes in your circumstances, such as any deaths, divorces or new children, can affect your Will or, in some cases, might even make it invalid.



Making a bequest to the St Vincent de Paul Society will ensure that some of the most excluded are given the chance to have a better life. It is also a very effective way of ensuring that the work of the SVP continues. Without your support we would not be able to carry out the work we do.

POINTS TO CONSIDER WHEN MAKING/CHANGING YOUR WILL

■ Calculate the value of your estate

To estimate how much you have to leave you will need to work out what you own (the value of your estate including property, financial assets, etc) and how much is left after all you owe (any mortgages, loans, debts, etc) is paid.

■ Contact a solicitor

Leaving a legacy to the SVP in your Will is simple, but you should contact a solicitor or professional adviser to make sure it reflects your exact intentions. This will avoid any legal problems in the future, otherwise your Will could be invalid or open to challenge, and your wishes may be overruled.

■ Who you want to benefit

After making provision for your family, friends and loved ones, you might want to leave a gift to some of your favourite causes. If your will is still accurate and up to date, your solicitor can easily add a new section or codicil including the St Vincent de Paul Society as your chosen charity.

■ Specify your funeral arrangements

In order to make sure that your wishes are carried out, it is best to include details of your preferred funeral arrangements in your Will.

For example, if you would prefer 'In Memoriam Donations' (donations made in lieu of flowers) you need to specify this in your will. If people would like to make a donation in your memory to the SVP they should call (020) 7407 4644 or write to St Vincent de Paul Society, 5th Floor, 291-299 Borough High St, London SE1 1JG

TYPES OF LEGACIES

Some of the most common ways of leaving a gift in your Will are:

- Pecuniary Legacy** - A fixed sum of money
- Specific Legacy** - A specific item of value, such as an item of property, a piece of jewellery or a painting.
- Residuary Legacy** - The whole or a percentage of your estate after providing for loved ones and covering administrative expenses.

The best way to leave a legacy to the SVP is by specifying a proportion of your estate (a residuary legacy) rather than an actual amount, which could be distorted by inflation.

A residuary legacy is particularly helpful because, no matter how much your financial circumstances change, it ensures that your gift to the St Vincent de Paul Society will not lose its value.

However you decide to help, you will make a tangible difference to disadvantaged people.

SUGGESTED WORDING FOR A BEQUEST

to the SVP according to type of legacy:

"I give to the St Vincent de Paul Society of
5th Floor, 291-299 Borough High St, London SE1 1JG,
Registered Charity 1053992:

- the sum of £ (amount in figures and in words) OR
- (a specific item) OR all my property known as (name of property) and situated at (location of property) OR
- all (or a share of) the residue of my estate

and I direct that (i) my bequest be applied by the St Vincent de Paul Society for its charitable purposes and (ii) the receipt of the Hon. National Treasurer or any Trustee of the Society for the time being shall be sufficient discharge to my Executors."

Your solicitor will check the final wording.

Thank you very much for remembering the Society in your Will.

YOUR LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE

If you are thinking of leaving a legacy to the St Vincent de Paul Society or have already done so, please let us know by completing this Form.

- I intend to include a legacy to the SVP in my Will
- I have already left a legacy to the SVP, and my Gift will be in the form of:
- The whole of my estate
 - A share of my estate
 - A fixed sum of money
 - A specific item
 - In Memoriam Donation

Your details:

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss)

Address

Post Code Date of Birth

Tel (incl. code)

E-mail

SVP Conf/Central Council (if applicable)

Signature Date

Your pledge will be treated in the strictest confidence and is in no way binding

If you wish to make a donation towards our work in memory of a loved one, we would be most grateful.

I enclose a donation of £ in memory of

Please make cheques payable to: St Vincent de Paul Society



With our gratitude and thanks

Please return to: St Vincent de Paul Society
5th Floor, 291-299
Borough High St, London SE1 1JG

Tel 020 7407 4644

Fax 020 7407 4634

Email giving@svp.org.uk

Web www.svp.org.uk

Registered Charity 1053992

160 YEARS OF FIGHTING POVERTY

Poverty today comes in many forms. It is not merely about economic need, but encompasses any circumstance which prevents an individual from living with dignity and excludes him/her from ordinary living patterns, customs and activities.

Founded in 1844, the St Vincent de Paul Society is committed to fighting poverty and social exclusion, both in the local community and overseas. It works not only to alleviate these problems but also to discover and remedy the situations which cause them.

We need your support to build a better future for people in need and create lasting solutions to tackle poverty. Please help us break the cycle of poverty and exclusion by leaving a bequest to the St Vincent de Paul Society.

THE DIFFERENCE YOU CAN MAKE

Legacies are one of the most valuable gifts you can give to the SVP. Legacies from supporters are a vital source of income and help us plan into the future to ensure we can continue our work. Here are some examples of the vital work your legacy can help fund:

£1,400 - would purchase 2 computers at one of our training centres for basic skills and IT training to help unemployed people and those on low incomes access employment and higher education.

£2,500 - would construct a rain water storage cistern to provide clean water for a family in Grenada.

£12,000 - would pay for the full cost of accommodating and supporting 11 homeless people for a month at one of our hostels.

£24,000 - would cover the annual cost of providing a debt counsellor in a disadvantaged area to support and help people in debt redress their situation.

£30,000 - would purchase a new 6-berth SVP caravan for the use of those who would otherwise be unable to go on holiday.

£60,000 - would cover the costs over two years of a feeding programme for 2,300 pre-school Sudanese children providing one meal per day five days per week in Khartoum.

HELP US TO HELP THOSE IN NEED



LEAVING A LEGACY TO THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Legacy Information Leaflet