

Your Will could unlock the breakthrough that means epilepsy no longer defines lives



## Every piece of research begins with a donation

We are moving ever closer to new breakthroughs that will transform lives. Our research findings in Whole Genome Sequencing are unlocking scientific discoveries, and an enhanced understanding of the genetic architecture of epilepsies, which could lead to the development of new anti-seizure medication.

Your legacy could be the key to turning this vision into reality. Over a third of the Epilepsy Society's voluntary income comes from legacies, helping us continue our research and improve outcomes for those affected by epilepsy.

With over 630,000 individuals in the UK living with epilepsy, and 30% of those who are resistant to medication, your support is more vital than ever.

# Andrew's Story



Andrew was born in 1943 and despite having epilepsy as a child, wasn't properly diagnosed until the age of 17. As a result he was often punished at school for his poor attention span. In fact he was experiencing seizures alongside his dyslexia which affected him into his early twenties.

After a change of medication during his course of treatment at the Epilepsy Society, Andrew's health and seizure control improved dramatically and he was able to go back to work full time. Andrew's family also received support and information from the Epilepsy Society.

His brother Paul told us "He really appreciated being looked after by people who recognised that his epilepsy was as important and significant in his life as he felt it was."

Andrew's hope was that his legacy after his death would help drive forward the Epilepsy Society's pioneering genomics research, with real hope for better treatments and one day even a cure for epilepsy.

## **Writing a Will is one of the most important things you can do: for yourself, your loved ones and for the future.**

Throughout your life, there will be many milestones, like finding a life partner or buying a home. You will always want to make sure that friends and family are looked after, and making a Will is a way of ensuring that your wishes are carried forward. Once you have made your wishes known, you may also wish to consider leaving a gift to a charity.

### **What type of gift can I leave to the Epilepsy Society?**

Residual gift: A percentage share of your estate after settlement of all other gifts and expenses.

Pecuniary gift: A specified amount of money.

A specific item: like a car, shares or jewellery which can be sold to obtain funds that we can use for our research.

### **Planning for the Future**

If someone you love lives with epilepsy, estate planning can help secure their future. Our free guide offers practical advice to help you take the first step with confidence. Request your copy today.

Visit [epilepsysociety.org.uk/get-involved/gifts-wills](https://epilepsysociety.org.uk/get-involved/gifts-wills) or contact us directly [Legacies@epilepsysociety.org.uk](mailto:Legacies@epilepsysociety.org.uk) We are here to support you, call our confidential helpline on **0300 102 0024**.

## Write your Will your way with Octopus Legacy

Our trusted partner can support you in turning your wishes into a legal document. With Octopus Legacy you can write a simple Will, or update your existing Will **free of charge**.

Go to [epilepsysociety.org.uk/get-involved/gifts-wills](https://epilepsysociety.org.uk/get-involved/gifts-wills)  
Simply fill out the online form and use **EPILEPSYSOCIETYFREE** at checkout.

Or phone Octopus Legacy on **020 4525 3605** for information or to make an appointment for a home visit. Remember to quote **Epilepsy Society** when you call to get this offer, or a Will including a trust at a discounted rate.

### Choose your own Solicitor

The Law Society can help you find a local solicitor if you prefer. Please note that any fees would be your responsibility.

**Thank you** so much for considering us in your Will, and please don't hesitate to get in touch if there's anything else we can help with.

Call free on **0300 102 0026** or

Email us at [Legacies@epilepsysociety.org.uk](mailto:Legacies@epilepsysociety.org.uk)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **I don't think I have anything to leave. How do I work out my assets?**

It's easy to underestimate the value of what you own and understanding your assets is a key part of planning for the future. Did you know that you can name a charity as the beneficiary of a pension or life insurance? Our [Will Planner](#) is a simple, helpful tool that can guide you through what you have and make writing your Will much easier. Why not take a few minutes today to get started?

### **What information do I need to provide if I leave a gift to Epilepsy Society in a will?**

Once your family and friends have been included, your Will is also a way for you to continue to support a cause close to your heart. To leave us a gift in your Will here is the information you need for your solicitor or person drafting your Will:

**Epilepsy Society  
Chalfont Centre  
Chesham Lane  
Chalfont St Peter  
Buckinghamshire  
SL9 0RJ  
Registered Charity number 206186**

Your adviser can agree the words and type of gift which suits your circumstances.

## Who should I choose as an executor for my Will?

Choosing an executor is an important step as they will be the one making sure your wishes are honoured and that your estate is looked after. It should be someone you trust and feel comfortable relying on. You can pick anyone over 18, including someone named in your Will. We usually recommend naming at least two people, so they can support each other through the process. You can find out more about executors [here](#).

## What type of gift can I leave the Epilepsy Society?

We're so grateful you're considering leaving a gift in your Will. The 3 main types of gift

**Percentage share also known as Residual** - you choose a percentage share of your estate to gift to charity. This type of gift is the most valuable because it's inflation-proof.

**Lump sum also known as pecuniary** - a fixed amount that can lose its value over time as costs increase.

**Specific gift** - a particular item, such as a car, shares or jewellery which can be sold to obtain a gift that we can use for our research. For alternatives to this we recommend you speak to your solicitor.

If you have a family member with epilepsy, careful planning of your estate can protect their future when you are no longer around. It might seem like a complicated process however we have a free [estate planning guide](#) that you can download with suggestions of a few things to discuss with a solicitor or other legal adviser to ensure your loved ones are looked after. For instance, it can be important to consider a 'discretionary' trust for your family member or to draft lasting powers of attorney.

## What happens to inheritance tax if I leave a gift to the Epilepsy Society?

Giving a gift to the Epilepsy Society could reduce your inheritance tax liability. Gifts to charities are 100% tax free and taken out of your estate before any inheritance tax is calculated.

Under current law, if you leave 10% of your net estate to charity, it may reduce the overall rate of inheritance tax you pay. Find out more about [Capital Gains Tax and inheritance tax](#).

## I've already written my Will. Can I amend it to leave the Epilepsy Society a gift?

Yes, you can ask your solicitor or professional Will writer to make amendments to your Will at any time. Depending on the extent of the changes you would like to make to your existing Will, it might be possible for you to use a codicil to make your amendments. Please remember to include our full name and charity number.

Our full address is: **Epilepsy Society, Chalfont Centre, Chesham Lane, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire, SL9 0RJ. Registered Charity number 206186**

Thank you for your interest in leaving a gift to support our research. If you would like to speak to us about your wishes please call us on freephone number 0300 102 0026 or email [legacies@epilepsysociety.org.uk](mailto:legacies@epilepsysociety.org.uk).



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