

FAQs

Please find below a list of Frequently asked Questions. If you can't find an answer to your question here please don't hesitate to get email us at giftsinwills@cuf.org.uk and we will do our best to help you.

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Writing a Will

1. What happens if I don't make a Will?

If you don't leave a Will it could mean that your wishes are not carried out how you want them to be. Any financial assets will be divided according to the law, which could mean that they are not allocated to any family or charities as you prefer. This is why it is important to have a Will that is written by a professional to ensure that there is no confusion about what you want to happen to your assets when you pass away.

2. What happens if I make my own Will? Will it still be valid?

It is not recommended to write your own Will as there may be things that you overlook. To ensure that your wishes are carried out and your Will is valid please seek the advice of a solicitor.

3. When is the correct time to make a Will?

There is never a wrong time to make a Will. By making it as soon as you can, you will have peace of mind that your wishes are in writing and will be carried out as you planned.

4. What wording should I use in my Will?

Your solicitor will be able to advise you on the correct wording.

5. What is the average cost to make a Will?

The cost of a Will varies greatly across the UK and depends on your situation. They can range from £144 to £600 depending on your needs and how complex the Will is. Please contact a solicitor for more information on their pricing.

To help with the cost of a will you can get in touch with us for more information about the Nation Free Wills Network.

6. What should I do before going to a solicitor?

Before you visit your solicitor, you should make sure that you have a list of all of your liabilities, your assets, and a list of people you wish to leave a gift to as well as your executors. Please see our checklist for more details.

Changing your Will

7. What happens if my circumstances change or I change my mind about anything in my Will, including gifts to charities?

If you change your mind at any time about anything in your Will, or if your circumstances change, you will need to speak to a solicitor to ask them to make an amendment to your Will. They will advise you of the best way to do this.

8. I have an existing Will and want to add Church Urban Fund to it. Is this possible?

If you already have a Will it is always possible to add to it and make changes based on your circumstances. This is usually done by having a codicil produced. This document will need to be witnessed and signed as you did with your Will. It is always best to seek professional assistance when updating your Will to make sure you do not do anything to invalidate it.

General information

9. Can CUF be an executor?

CUF will not be able to act as an executor on your Will as we do not have the Trust Corporation Status needed to do so. It is recommended that you get someone you trust to be an executor on your will.

10. Can I leave a gift to a specific program?

It is better not to leave a gift to a specific project as if this project closes CUF will not be able to accept the money. An unrestricted, or general, gift allows CUF to allocate the funds you leave to where it is needed the most.

Church Urban Funds Details

11. What is the charity number for Church Urban Fund (CUF)? What other details do I need to include when leaving a legacy gift?

To leave us a gift in your Will you need to include the following information:
Address:

The Foundry,
17 Oval Way,
London,
SE11 5RR

The charity number for Church Urban Fund is: 297483

Tax

12. What is inheritance tax?

This is a tax on the estate of someone who has died. The estate is the property, money, and any possessions of the person who has died. Inheritance tax is usually charged at 40% on anything over the £325,000 threshold. If the value of an estate is under this threshold then there will be no tax to pay.

For example

If your estate is worth £450,000 then the inheritance tax charged will be 40% of £125,000 (£450,000 minus £325,000)

Please look at the government website for more detailed information about inheritance tax and how to pay it: www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax

13. How will leaving a charitable gift affect my inheritance tax?

Inheritance tax will be applied to any estate that is worth more than £325,000. It is charged at a rate of 40% on anything above that amount. This is reduced to 36% if you leave at least 10% to a charity. Please use the government calculator to work out how much inheritance tax you will have to pay:

www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax-reduced-rate-calculator

14. Will my gift to Church Urban Fund be taxed?

No. Any gift left to a charity in a Will is tax free.

Gifts to Church Urban Fund in your Will

15. Can I choose for my friends and family to donate to CUF instead of flowers at a funeral?

Yes, absolutely. If you want this to be something that your friends and family do instead of flowers at a funeral please contact us so that we can give you the correct details for your Will.

16. Do I need to tell CUF if I have left a gift in my Will?

You don't have to let us know if you have pledged to leave us a legacy gift, but it is appreciated. This is so we can thank you and add you to our Faith in the Future community. If you do decide to share your kind gesture you do not need to tell us the details of your Will, as we understand this is very personal.

17. How will my gift be used?

A gift in your Will enables us to carry on our work in communities across the country. Your legacy gift will help us expand our work and help more people than ever before.

18. Is there a minimum gift that needs to be left?

No, You could choose to leave as little as 1% to us in your Will.

Any gift large or small is appreciated and will go towards helping us with projects all across the country.

National Free Wills Network

19. What is the National Free Wills Network?

The National Free Wills network is a national network of local law firms offering Will writing services to supporters of UK charities. For more visit: www.nationalfreewills.net You can have a will written for free during the two Free Wills Months in March and October each year. Head to our website <https://cuf.org.uk/what-can-you-do/leaving-a-gift-in-your-will> and you will find a form to fill in requesting for your details to be sent to the network to get a voucher for a Free will.

If you still have questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with us at giftsinwills@cuf.org.uk for further information.

In Memoriam gifts or In Lieu gifts to Church Urban Fund

20. What is an in-lieu gift?

An in-lieu gift is when you ask your friends and family to make a charitable donation to a charity of your choice in your name instead of giving you a gift. This could be for a number of occasions including Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries, or weddings.

It could also be if a family asks for charitable donations in lieu of flowers at a funeral.

21. Can I choose CUF as a charity for my friends and family to donate to in lieu of a gift?

Yes, absolutely. You can choose to have donations sent to CUF in lieu of a gift for a special event like your wedding or your birthday. All you need to do is set up a Just Giving page to collect donations before they are sent to us. Head to <https://www.justgiving.com/cuf> and click Fundraise for us to start setting up your page.

If you need some help with this please contact us at hello@cuf.org.uk or call us on 020 3752 5655 and our team will be able to help you.

22. Do you accept donations in memory of someone?

Yes. Please see question 24 for more information.

23. Will you be able to claim Gift Aid on an in-memory gift?

If the gift has come only from you we will be able to claim Gift Aid as long as we have a declaration that has been signed within the last four years. If you are not sure if we have one, or if we have never had a form signed by you, please fill in a gift aid form and either email or post it back to us with your donation.

If the gift is from a collection we will not be able to claim Gift Aid on the total amount as per rules from HMRC. If people wanted us to claim Gift Aid on their contribution they can send in a form and keep their donation separate, e.g. they write an individual cheque that is sent in with the main collection.

For a copy of our Gift aid form please follow this link <https://cuf.org.uk/resources/gift-aid-form> Once it has been filled in you can either email or post it back to us

24. How do I send you money that has been collected and how can I make sure you know it is in memory?

There are several ways to send us money You could choose to post us a cheque or send us the money by BACs.



If you are running a collection and people are writing individual cheques (so that we can claim Gift Aid on individual contributions), it is usually best to send them all together with the signed forms so that we know these are part of one collection. We only ask that if someone signs a Gift Aid form you attach the cheque to it in some way to make sure we can claim accordingly.

Please send cheques to:

Church Urban Fund
ATTN: Fundraising Team
The Foundry
17 Oval Way
London
SE11 5RR

Please include a letter telling us who the gift is In Memoriam of and details of who to send an acknowledgement letter to. We would also love to know more about why Church Urban Fund was chosen to receive this gift.

If you want to send the donation to us by BACs please contact us at hello@cuf.org.uk or call us on 020 3752 5655 and our team will be able to give you our bank details and make a note of who the gift is in memory of.

25. Can I collect the money online?

Yes. You can set up a Just Giving page for your friends and family to donate to. If you are not sure how to do this please see question 21 for a link on where to link your page or call us on 0203 7525655 and one of our friendly team members will be able to help you.

26. Will I get anything to acknowledge the gift?

Absolutely. Once the money has been received we will send an acknowledgment letter to you using the details provided to us when the gift was sent in.

27. Can I set up a regular gift in memory of someone?

Yes. We will make a record for you on our system and add a note that it's in memory and who it is in memory of.

To set up a gift please fill in your details on this page <https://cuf.org.uk/donate-money> Please make sure you tell us in either a letter or email that it is set up In Memoriam and who it is in memory of.

If you would prefer to have a paper form to fill in please call us on 0203 752 5655 and we will arrange to have one sent out to you.