

The Mencap logo, featuring the word "mencap" in white lowercase letters inside a pink speech bubble shape, which is set against a dark purple rounded rectangle.

mencap

Your guide to
leaving a gift
in your Will
to Mencap

A close-up portrait of a young man with short brown hair and a light beard, wearing a red t-shirt. He is smiling gently and has his hands clasped together in front of his chest, forming a heart shape.

**Make their
wish your Will**

A gift in your Will can grant wishes for years to come

Edel Harris, Mencap's Chief Executive, explains how leaving a gift in your Will can help people with a learning disability to lead wonderful, fulfilled lives.



Thank you for considering this very special gift. By leaving a gift to Mencap in your Will you can support us to continue our important charitable work to make the UK the best place in the world for someone with a learning disability to live.

If you are reading this guide, you obviously share my belief that people with a learning disability deserve to have the same things in life as everyone else; to feel valued, to have meaningful relationships, to be employed if

they are able, indeed to have as many choices as possible to lead their lives in the way they choose.

While opportunities have certainly improved since Mencap was founded in 1946, we still have a lot of work to do. Leaving a gift to Mencap in your Will is one of the most impactful ways of supporting us. It will help us build a fairer, kinder world for everyone with a learning disability.

Thank you for your support. It is both appreciated and valued.

Speak to
Mencap's Gifts
in Wills Team
020 7696 6917



Your Will could help people with a learning disability to live the life they want.



Your Will could help people like Alora and her mum, Selina, to continue receiving support at the Mencap children's centre.

Alora's [★]wish is to make friends she can connect with

Four-year-old Alora is a bit of a diva who loves music and dance. She was diagnosed with a variety of medical conditions as a baby, including developmental delay and a severe brittle bone condition, which meant she spent almost her entire first year of life in hospital.

Alora is non-verbal and her experience in hospital left her very sensitive to touch. But with the help of specialists at the Mencap children's centre, Alora's learning to reach out to touch toys and connect with people around her. Where she was once very hesitant, now she's blowing kisses and loves a cuddle.

And with your support, Mencap will continue to be there for Alora as she grows up, makes new friends, and faces more challenges – helping her grow into the person that she wants to be.

Make her wish your Will

A gift in your Will could fund specialist early years support for children like Alora, giving them the best start in life and helping them to achieve whatever they want.

“The staff at the children's centre are amazing. Alora settled in and connected with everyone very quickly.”

– Selina, Alora's mum

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Harry's [★]wish is to continue in a job he loves, where he's valued as an individual

Harry has worked for Mencap for nine years, and in his current role as Communications Assistant and Ambassador, he helps promote the charity and also serves as an advisor on accessibility issues. It was always his dream to do something that had a positive impact.

"I joined Mencap because I wanted to make a difference to other people with a learning disability. I wanted to show what we can achieve."

Harry says his favourite part of the job is the people – the people he's helping, and the people he works with. He also loves the buzz of working in London and socialising with his colleagues after work.

His wish for the future is to start his own consultancy business, where he would help corporations make their workplaces

accessible to people with a learning disability.

Make his wish your Will

With a gift in your Will, you could fund Mencap's employment services, which help people with a learning disability develop the skills and confidence they need to get a job that's right for them. That might be through a work experience placement, supported internship, apprenticeship or trainee programme.

**"Labels are for jars,
not for people."**

– Harry

Every year we
support **over 1,000**
people across all
our employment
programmes

Harry, showing the world what people with a learning disability can achieve.



A close-up photograph of two women with dark hair smiling at the camera. The woman on the left wears glasses and a white lace top, while the woman on the right wears a white top. The background is a light-colored wall with a geometric pattern.

“Tam’s completely capable, she just has a learning disability. There should never have been an issue.”

– Noshaba

Tam and Noshaba's wish[★] is to have the home they deserve, together

Sisters Tam and Noshaba have lived together for two years. When their parents started slowing down with age, the family had a chat with Tam, who has Down's syndrome, about where she wanted to live.

"I'm the chosen one!" Noshaba says. "I look out for her, and she looks out for me."

When Noshaba got a new job that required her to relocate – and provided accommodation – she and Tam were excited for a new start. But when Noshaba notified her new employer that her sister needed to come along, it suddenly became a problem:

"As soon as my employer saw the words 'Down's syndrome' they said they wouldn't house me because of Tam's 'needs.' They didn't even meet her, didn't see her as an individual."

Thankfully, Noshaba called Mencap, who supported her in the legal challenge against her employer. When the decision came in Noshaba and Tam's favour, Tam was over the moon.

"She said, 'shall I pack my sandals?' – she was excited and ready to go!"

Make their wish your Will

With a gift in your Will, you can help challenge discrimination so people with a learning disability are respected as the individuals they are.

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Five things to consider when making **your Will**

Planning your Will

The first step in planning your Will is to write down your assets and think about the people and causes you'd like to include. To help you with this, you can download Mencap's free Will Planner online by visiting www.mencap.org.uk/wish

Inheritance Tax

Any gifts left to charities, including Mencap, are exempt from Inheritance Tax – so including a charitable gift can sometimes help reduce the tax on your estate. But Inheritance Tax is a complex and often-changing area of law, so we advise you visit www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax for the latest information.

Funeral plans

You may also choose to include your funeral plans in your Will. It can be reassuring for loved ones to know they're carrying out your wishes.

Making your Will

Through our free Will writing services, you can have a standard Will written at zero cost. If you are interested in having your Will written for free, please visit www.mencap.org.uk/wish or speak to our Gifts in Wills team on 020 7696 6917.

Reviewing your Will

It is worth reviewing your Will now and again, to make sure it's still aligned with your wishes.

**Over 50%
of Mencap's
fundraised income
comes from gifts
in Wills**

Your questions answered

Do I really need a Will?

Having a Will is the best way of ensuring that your wishes are carried out, and is a way of providing for the people and causes you care about.

What is an executor and why do I need one?

An executor is someone who looks after your Will once you have died, to ensure that your wishes are followed through. You can appoint a family member or a friend to be an executor, even if they are set to benefit from your Will. Alternatively you can appoint a solicitor or financial advisor but note that there will be fees involved with this.

I have a dependant with a learning disability, how can I provide for them in my Will?

If you have a child or other loved one with a learning disability we would recommend setting up a Discretionary Trust for them. This is because if they inherit a lump sum of money, it can affect any means-tested benefits they currently or may one day receive. A Discretionary Trust ensures that your money for your child

is protected for their future. If you would like more information on this please don't hesitate to contact Mencap's Wills & Trusts Service on 020 7696 6925 or visit www.mencap.org.uk/willsandtrusts

What type of gift can I leave in my Will?

There are three main types of gifts you can choose:

A share of your estate

This can be a percentage of what is left over once loved ones are provided for, called a residuary gift, or it can be any percentage you like. As this gift is a proportion of your estate it keeps pace with inflation.

A fixed sum of money

This is a specific amount, also known as a pecuniary gift. You can choose any amount you like but it's worth reviewing periodically as it may lose value over time due to inflation.

A specific item

You can also choose to leave a particular item, such as a piece of jewellery, an antique or even a property. A gift like this should be named in your Will.

What do I need to do to include Mencap in my Will?

In order to include a gift to Mencap please make sure your Will states our full name, address, and registered charity number:

- Royal Mencap Society of
6 Cyrus Way, Hampton,
Peterborough, PE7 8HP
- Registered charity number
222377 (England and
Wales) SC041079 (Scotland)

If you do decide to include Mencap in your Will, please take a moment to let us know. You can use the enclosed form, call us on 020 7696 6917 or email us at giftsinwills@mencap.org.uk – **we'd love to thank you properly.**



Jane's [★]wish is for her daughter to continue to lead the life she loves

Jane is 73, and cares for her 35-year-old daughter Rachel, who has Down's syndrome. Rachel is very social, she loves to have a joke and play games. But Jane is aware that to lead the life she wants, Rachel needs a great deal of support from her and their family. And as she gets older, she knows it's important that Rachel continue to get the support she needs.

"When we're gone or can no longer support Rachel, I'd like her to keep living a life not so different from the one she's leading now. But realistically she'll require a support team to help with her physical needs, and her emotional needs as well. She needs someone to forge a personal relationship with her."

Jane says that Mencap's support in providing information has been vital. Rachel loves meeting up with friends at the Mencap social

club, which helps her feel part of the community. And in the future, she's counting on Mencap to continue ensuring that Rachel's rights and wants as an individual will be respected.

"I cannot think of an organisation other than Mencap with the name, the recognition, and the authority to make big changes for people like Rachel."

With a gift in your Will to Mencap, you can ensure people like Rachel continue to receive the support they need to live the life they choose.

Please call our Gifts in Wills team on 020 7696 6917 – and do take a moment to let us know your intentions.

I wanted to take a moment to let you know how much it has meant to us to have Mencap in our lives. My daughter Rachel is 35 and has Down's syndrome. She leads a full, active and social life – and Mencap is a big part of that. She loves coming to the Mencap social club, and I think it's easy to forget how important that is.

We have a lot of people who come to the club who aren't living at home, who don't have Mum or Dad in the background. And many of them are not able to go out independently. So the Mencap club is really important in enabling those people to be part of the community.

As we get older, Mencap give me hope that Rachel can continue to have the life she loves. They offer so much information, support and authority – it's like the Harrods of support for people with a learning disability! I hope everyone understands just how much Mencap means to people like us.

Thank you,

Jane



Rachel trying out archery at her Mencap social club.



“My gift in my Will is a gesture of solidarity with Mencap and all the families who are still struggling with the tribulations we have known. That path can sometimes be a lonely one, and Mencap shows families that they are not alone.”

Brian’s daughter Lynne (48) has a learning disability, and his experiences with Mencap prompted him to include a gift in his Will to Mencap.

To find out more about gifts in Wills

Call: 020 7696 6917

Email: giftsinwills@mencap.org.uk

Visit: www.mencap.org.uk/wish



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Registered Charity Number 222377 (England and Wales); SC041079 (Scotland)