



**Leaving a gift in
your will to Bliss**

**For every baby
born premature
or sick in the UK**

Bliss
for babies born
premature or sick

Dear supporter,

Thank you for taking the time to learn how you can help premature and sick babies by leaving Bliss a gift in your will.

In this guide, we'll explain more about Bliss and the vital work we do to support babies and their families, as well as our vision that all babies born premature or sick have the best chance of survival and quality of life. We will also explain more about the will writing process, and answer some of our supporters' frequently asked questions.

I understand that leaving a gift in your will to charity is an incredibly personal decision.

After taking care of your loved ones, your friends and family, you can choose how you want to leave a legacy for future generations, and where your gift is best placed.

Every gift to Bliss, no matter how small, will help to make a real difference to future lives.

And importantly, your gift will be safe with Bliss, a charity that has been supporting vulnerable babies for more than 40 years.

Thank you so much for considering this special kind of gift to help future generations of premature and sick babies.

I hope you find this guide useful.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Lee-Davey', written in a cursive style.

Caroline Lee-Davey
Chief Executive, Bliss



About Bliss

Founded in 1979, Bliss was created by a group of concerned parents who discovered that no hospital had all the equipment or the trained staff it needed to safely care for premature and sick babies.

Determined to do something, these volunteers formed a charity to give vulnerable babies the care they deserve. Over 40 years later, Bliss has grown into the leading UK charity for the 90,000 babies born every year who need neonatal care.

Together with thousands of caring people like you, we do whatever it takes to make sure these babies get the best neonatal care, with their loved ones by their side.

We achieve this by empowering families, campaigning for change and supporting professionals, and enabling life-changing research.

Did you know?

Bliss originally stood for Baby Life Support Systems. Through hard work and fundraising we were successful in ensuring that all hospitals fund core neonatal equipment out of their central funds, but our work to ensure that premature and sick babies have the best chance of survival and quality of life continues.



Our vision

Bliss' vision is that every baby born premature or sick in the UK has the best chance of survival and quality of life.

Our mission

We exist to ensure all babies in neonatal care:

- Have the best chance of survival.
- Have well-supported parents playing an active role in their decision making and care.
- Are cared for in neonatal environments that best support their development.
- Benefit from neonatal research that can lead to practical improvements in their care.
- Receive high-quality care within a neonatal health system which is appropriately funded, structured and staffed.

We plan to exist as long as premature and sick babies need us.

Our promise to you

A gift in your will is such a personal decision, so we promise that in return:

- We will always remember that your loved ones are your priority.
- We won't pressure you to tell us more about your decision or ask you to decide quickly.
- You can change your mind at any time.
- We will answer any questions you have as quickly and as thoroughly as we can.
- Any gift you leave to premature and sick babies will be used wisely, and we will do everything in our power to honour any specific wishes you have.



Six simple steps

There are six steps it's worth taking before you visit your solicitor, just so you've planned ahead.

It might also save you money on the cost of preparing your will.

Step 1: Write down what you own – property, savings and valuables – and work out a rough value. It's surprising how the value of your home and possessions can quickly add up.

Step 2: Make a list of what you owe or are owed. Include mortgage repayments, loans or bills. This will help give you an idea of the value of your estate.

Step 3: Who do you want to benefit? Write down all the family members, friends and organisations you wish to remember in your will. Consider how you'd like to divide your estate between everyone and what type of gift you want to leave to them.

Step 4: Choose your executors and arrange to see a solicitor who can formally draft your will. Bliss has partnered with The Goodwill Partnership, who can arrange for you to write your will from the comfort of your own home. Visit goodwillpartnership.co.uk/bliss for more details. You can appoint between one and four executors who will be responsible for carrying out your wishes.

Step 5: Get your will signed. It will need to be signed, dated and witnessed.

Step 6: Keep your will safe and importantly, up-to-date. Your will is an important document that most people choose to leave in the care of their solicitor or legal advisor. Make sure your executors know where to find it.

There are three ways you can support Bliss in your will.

1. You can leave a fixed amount of money to an individual or an organisation - this is called a pecuniary gift. There is no minimum amount that can be left.
2. You can leave a specific gift such as an object, like a house or a thing, like a piece of jewellery.
3. A residuary gift is made from whatever is left over once gifts of money and specific items have been distributed. A residuary gift is often the best way to leave a gift to a charity as it ensures that your loved ones are taken care of first, then a percentage of what is left is donated to Bliss.

Thank you.



Your questions answered

What if I already have a will?

You should review your will from time to time to make sure it still reflects your wishes. It's also a good opportunity to reflect on any charities you want to support and to include a gift to Bliss.

Whenever your circumstances change, for example if you get married or have more children, you should update your will. You can do this using a codicil, an additional legal document which explains or alters your will. Your solicitor can then help add this to your will. Alternatively, if your will has been made by our partners, The Goodwill Partnership, they can amend it for you for a small administration fee.

Remember not to make changes to your will yourself as you could render it invalid if it isn't changed correctly.

How much should I give?

Any gift that you can include in your will can help change babies' lives. All gifts make a difference, no matter the size. You may want to leave a percentage of your estate after your friends and family are taken care of, or a specific amount.

How can I find a solicitor?

Contact the Law Society on **020 7320 5650** or visit [lawsociety.org.uk](https://www.lawsociety.org.uk) and select 'Find a Solicitor' to find a registered legal professional in your area.

Who should I choose as an executor?

It's entirely up to you. You can choose up to four individuals, or a solicitor, a bank or an accountant.

Are there any tax benefits?

Charitable legacies are usually exempt from Inheritance Tax and currently, if you leave more than ten per cent of your estate to charity, Inheritance Tax is reduced further. Always consult a professional for financial advice specific to you.

How much does it cost to make a will?

It varies, depending on how complex your will and estate is.

Bliss work with The Goodwill Partnership to offer our supporters an affordable will-writing service. Trained counsellors can visit your home, or speak to you over video or phone call, to help you write your will at a time that's convenient for you. Your will is then checked by one of The Goodwill Partnership's approved solicitors and returned to you.

Please visit goodwillpartnership.co.uk/bliss or call **0844 669 6148** and quote 'Bliss' to find out more or arrange an appointment.

On behalf of all the premature and sick babies born in the future, thank you so much for considering a gift in your will to Bliss.



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Registered charity no. (England & Wales): 1002973
Registered charity no. (Scotland): SC040878

Bliss
for babies born
premature or sick



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