

Leaving a legacy to the National Secular Society

The National Secular Society has, for over 130 years, stood firm in its opposition to the unfettered growth of religion in our nation. Now, as Britain becomes one of the most secular countries in the world, religion is agitating once more to regain its pre-eminent position of authority. Against the will of the people, bishops and imams, priests and rabbis are pushing their sectarian interests at the expense of those who have moved on from religion.

A strong voice is needed to oppose them. The National Secular Society is that voice.

Through your forethought in leaving us a legacy, you can help us carry on our important work.

To simplify the process of making a will, take the following information with you to your solicitor:

- A note of all your main assets. Include your home, your investments, pensions, savings and valuable possessions.
- A list of your liabilities, such as mortgages and other loans.
- The details of who you will appoint as executors (these are the people you are entrusting to carry out your will). It is wise to ensure that at least one of them is younger than you. You can ask your solicitor to act as one of your executors. He or she can also keep your will safe for you.
- If you have dependent children, it is wise to appoint a Guardian for them until they are 18.
- Decide what you want to do with your assets. If you want to give particular items to specific individuals take appropriate details to your solicitor of who they are and what it is you want them to receive.

Once you have made your will you can change it at any time, often through a codicil. You should always reconsider your will at regular intervals to see if it needs updating as circumstances change. For example, marriage, divorce or winning the lottery will all have a significant impact on your will. If your life changes, you should always make sure that you check that your will is drafted to carry out your current intentions.

If you want to leave a legacy to the National Secular Society of whatever size, it will be greatly appreciated and put to good use. It will enable us to ensure that our increasingly important work continues into future generations.

There are different types of legacies. Your solicitor will advise you which type is most suitable to your circumstances. You can use one, or more, of these to benefit the NSS. Briefly these options are

- **A pecuniary legacy.** This is the gift of a specific sum, which is decided when you make your will or add a codicil. Bear in mind that because of inflation, a pecuniary legacy might be worth considerably less by the time it comes to be paid than it was at the time of drawing up the will.
- **A residuary legacy.** This is a gift of a percentage (or even all) of what is left of your estate after your debts have been settled and any legacies you leave to other people have been paid. This kind of legacy compensates for inflation.
- **A specific legacy.** When a particular item is bequeathed, it is called a specific legacy. It might be stocks and shares, the proceeds of a life insurance policy, property, furniture, jewellery or some other item.

Take this sheet with you when you visit your solicitor. He or she might find the following wording adaptable when including The National Secular Society in your will.

"I give..... to the National Secular Society of 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer or other proper officer of the National Secular Society shall be a full and sufficient discharge for my executors".

25 Red Lion Square

London WC1R 4RL

TEL: 020 7404 3126

FAX: 0870 762 8971

EMAIL: enquiries@secularism.org.uk

WEB: www.secularism.org.uk



A personal message about legacies

from the Executive Director of the National Secular Society

Dear Friend,

We all want to live long and prosper. Sadly, though, all good things must come to an end, and when our time is up, we want to be sure that our savings and possessions will be dealt with according to our wishes. That means making a will.

Making a will gives peace of mind. Although it is a simple process, it is worthwhile paying the modest fee to have it prepared and made watertight by a solicitor. Do-it-yourself wills, such as those written on forms from the stationery shop, may prove worthless if they are challenged.

For most people, the first concern will be for their family. After that, many want to continue to support causes that they have been enthusiastic about during their lives.

When you make your will we hope you'll remember the National Secular Society. The Society has depended throughout its long history on the generosity of its members' bequests. By leaving us a legacy you will be enabling us to continue working to free society from the often-malign influences of religion.

If you have already made a will, your solicitor can easily amend it to include a gift to the NSS. Minor revisions can normally be made without having to make a whole new will, by adding a short codicil. This is a formal short supplement to your will. It is placed with your will and forms part of the instructions.

We want to ensure that those who do not believe, and who want to live a rational life, do not suffer disadvantage. We want a fairer community where a person's particular faith, or lack of it, is no barrier or handicap, and where organised religion no longer has the power to persecute or interfere.

This is a long-term aim. Our founder, Charles Bradlaugh, famously said that: "No man sees a religion die". The process of creating a truly secular society will be long and arduous. We want to ensure that the NSS will be thriving for future generations to continue to fight for freedom of conscience, freedom of expression, and freedom from religious intolerance.

Your bequest can help ensure that this happens. If you have any further questions after reading the page overleaf, please get in touch with the office who will arrange for Keith Porteous Wood or a specialist to contact you.



KS,