



The National  
Autistic Society

A really simple guide  
to wills and trusts for people  
living with autism

Accept difference.  
Not indifference.

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# About this guide

Parents, carers and family members of people with autism often ask us for advice on providing for their loved ones in the future, and this booklet is a starting point.

It's designed to guide you through the options available, some things to consider and some of the related terminology that might be new to you. Please remember that it's important to take professional advice before making any long-term financial and legal decisions. This booklet should prepare you for your meeting with a legal adviser.

## About The National Autistic Society (NAS)

We are the leading UK charity for people with autism (including Asperger syndrome) and their families.

We were founded in 1962, by a group of parents who were passionate about ensuring a better future for their children. Today we have 20,000 members and more than 100 branches, and we provide information, support and pioneering services for thousands of people living with autism each year. We continue to campaign for a better world for people with autism. Together with our supporters, we shape the future for people affected by autism.

## Terminology

You'll see that some of the terms we use are [highlighted in blue](#). You can find an explanation of each of those terms in our glossary on page 36.

# Peace of mind

## Taking care of your family's future

Many people find themselves asking what will happen to their family member with autism when they're no longer around to care for them. You might have considered the same question – how to make sure your loved ones are provided for and looked after in the future. You know about their needs and you want to make sure those needs continue to be met after you are gone.

Making a will gives you the opportunity to have a say in the future of those you care about and make sure they're provided for. It's a really important step to take – it will make sure your money goes where you want it to and that your loved ones get the best care and provision possible.

## Providing for someone with autism

Care and provision for a person with autism can be complex, especially when means-tested benefits are involved. A trust makes it possible for you to leave money to someone with autism without affecting their entitlements to means-tested benefits and to choose the people you would like to look after that money.

If you have a family member receiving community care services or means-tested benefits and you want to make sure that support continues, it's important to think about setting up a trust as part of your will. You can read more about the different types of trusts on page 14.

*We're here to give you as much guidance and support as we can to help you plan for the future.*





## Gavin and Mhairi's story

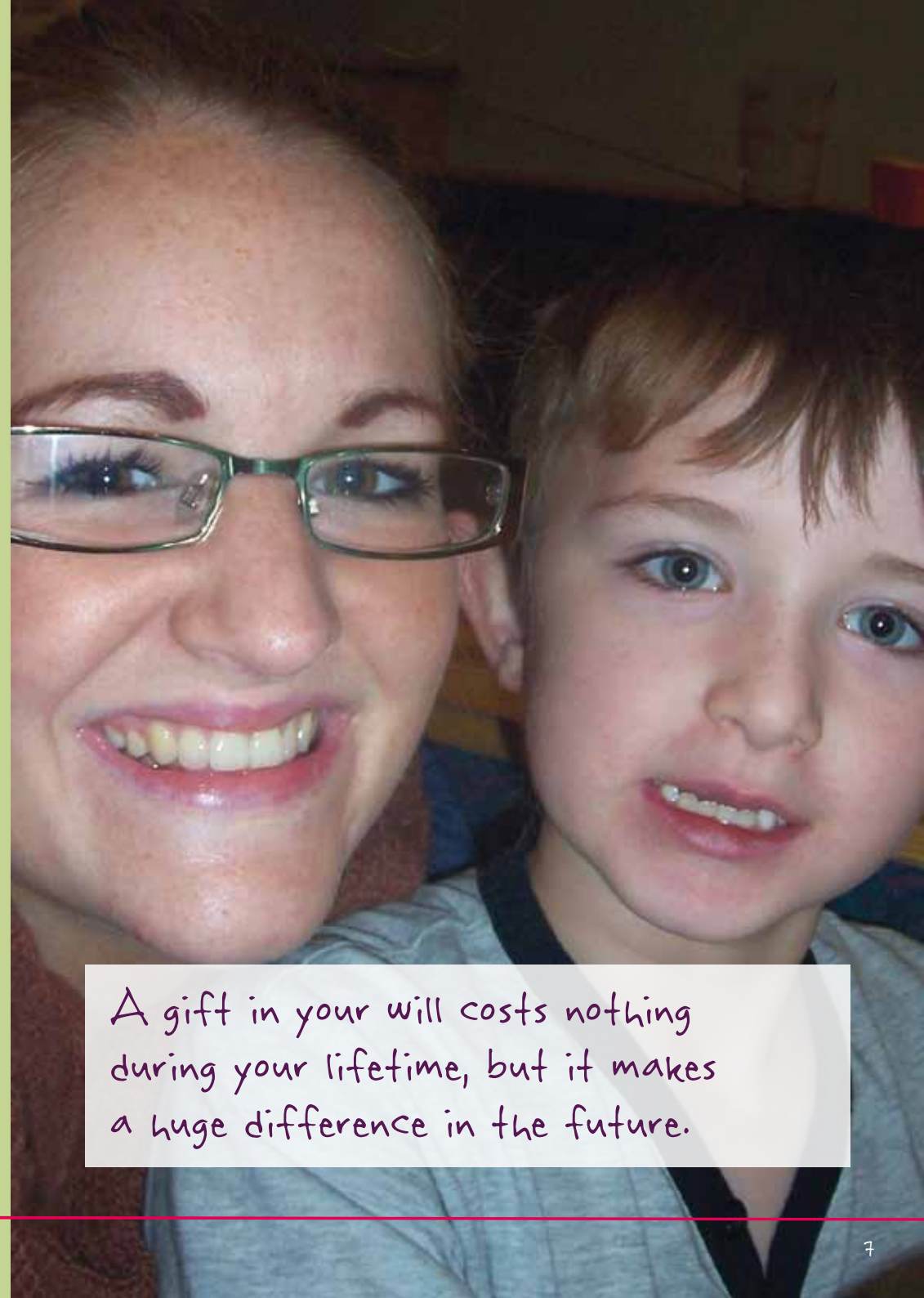
When Gavin, six, was diagnosed with autism, his mum Mhairi struggled to come to terms with it. "I couldn't focus on anything work-related. I ended up on long-term sick leave, receiving medication. It put an incredible strain on family life, but fortunately, the NAS was always at the end of the phone."

Mhairi's relationship with her daughter, Emily, was suffering, as they never got to spend time together without Gavin. Our Helpline told her about our befriending service, and Gavin was matched with a befriender called Rachel.

Gavin treasures the time he spends with Rachel, and now Mhairi can spend more time with Emily, doing the simple things Emily was missing out on before. For Mhairi, the help her family has received from the NAS has been priceless:

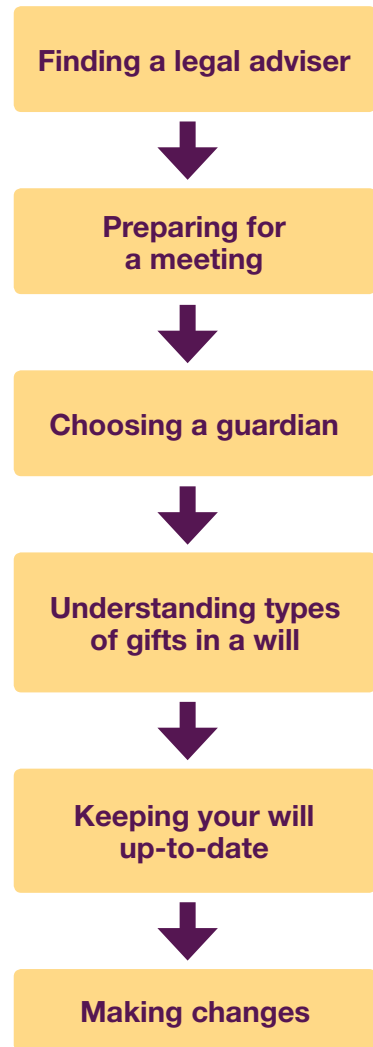
"No matter how much money you have got, you couldn't pay enough. I could never thank Rachel enough for what she has done." As for Gavin, when asked the best thing about Rachel coming to visit, he said: "She's just like mummy, only she's Rachel."

**Thanks to the generous gifts people have made in the past, The National Autistic Society can help families like Mhairi and Gavin's.**



A gift in your will costs nothing during your lifetime, but it makes a huge difference in the future.

# Making a will – a step-by-step guide



You might think that making a will is expensive, but it doesn't have to be. And it's well worth the time and effort it takes. Here we help you to approach it in manageable stages.

## Finding a legal adviser

Before you make any decisions about your will, it is important to speak to a legal adviser like a qualified solicitor or a professional will writer. We have a list of specialist solicitors with experience of helping families affected by autism to plan for the future. If you would like to receive a copy, please contact the Supporter Care Team on either **0808 800 1050** or email **legacies@nas.org.uk**. Otherwise you can find suitable solicitors by searching on The Law Society website, **www.lawsociety.org.uk**, or The Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) website, **www.step.org**. Further contact details for these organisations can be found on page 38 of this book.

However you choose to find your legal professional, it is a good idea to check that they are experienced in advising about providing for someone with a disability, and to check costs before you set up a meeting.

## Preparing for a meeting

Before you meet your legal adviser, it helps to list all the information you will need, for example:

- > names and addresses of the people you would like to leave money to
- > names of the people you want to carry out the wishes you express in your will (**executors**)
- > the money and other things of major value that you own (**assets**) and any debts (**liabilities**)
- > names of the people you would like to manage any trusts you plan to set up (**trustees**)
- > any gift that you would like to leave to charity, after you've provided for your loved ones.

We've provided a list of questions to guide you in the 'Helping you get started' section on page 26 of this booklet.

Once you know how much you are likely to leave in a will, and who you want to benefit, it's easier for your legal adviser to advise you correctly. They may help you consider things like how to reduce any **Inheritance Tax**, what kind of trust you could set up, and how to avoid affecting means-tested benefits. You can find out more about the government figures for the level of capital allowed before means-tested benefits are affected at **www.gov.uk** in the section 'Money and tax'.

## Choosing a guardian

If you have a child with autism, you can include guidance on how you would like them to be looked after in your will. For example, you can name a person that you would like to act as your child's **guardian**.

If your will includes provision for someone who is under 18 (or under 16, in Scotland), it's important for you to choose a guardian, or guardians, who will be responsible for that child's general upbringing.

### Understanding types of gifts in a will

Gifts in a will are also sometimes called **legacies** or **bequests**. There are three different types of gift that you can make.

#### A share of your estate

This is usually known as a residuary gift. Once you have decided what you want to give to your loved ones, a residuary gift means you leave a percentage of whatever is left to other people or charities such as the NAS. It can be anywhere between 1% and 100%, it's entirely up to you. The good thing about this type of gift is that it keeps pace with inflation because it is a proportion of your estate.

#### A fixed sum of money

This is known as a pecuniary gift. Inflation can reduce the value of this type of gift so it's worth reviewing the amount from time to time to ensure it is still worth what you intended to give.

#### A specific gift

This is a named item of value such as a property, piece of jewellery or perhaps an antique.

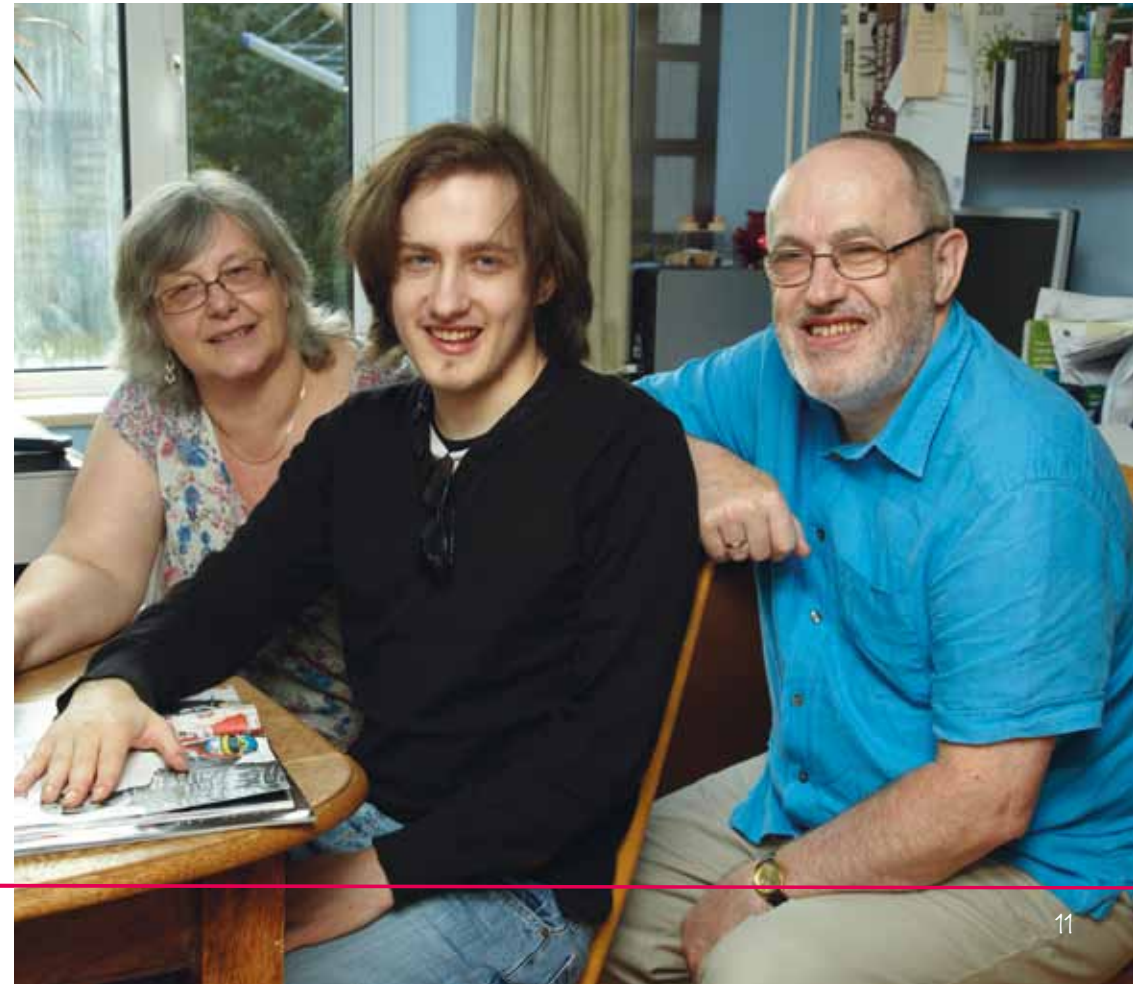
#### Keeping your will up-to-date

It's really important to keep your will up-to-date. If there is any change to your circumstances, or the circumstances of the people benefiting from your will, you need to consider whether your will is

still appropriate and reflects your wishes. For example, you may need to review your will when you marry or divorce to ensure you are providing for those you wish to. It is also a good idea to check your will every few years and change it if you need to.

### Making changes

You can make a simple change, for example the name of the person who deals with your affairs after your death (**executor**), in a document called a **codicil**. But because nothing must be attached to your will, there is a risk that a codicil could become separated and lost and it may be safer to ask your legal adviser to make a new will. If the changes are only small, they may charge a reduced fee.





## Lisa and James' story

Lisa has set up a trust to provide for her son James, who has autism, in case anything should happen to her.

“As a mother, it frightens you to think someone else could be looking after your child’s money, but my solicitor explained that you can choose other people, who you trust, to help your child make sure certain financial choices are the right ones.

“The one thing I felt after I included the trust in my will was a sense of relief. As a parent of a child with autism, you find so much is out of your control. It’s nice to be actively doing something to help my son. I think every parent’s fear for their child is what will happen in their future; especially their future without you. Once I’d made a will and included the trust, I felt less stressed.”

Lisa is a member of The National Autistic Society and, when she re-made her will, she kindly left a gift to us. “I felt it was important to support such a vital service to help people with autism and their families. The NAS has helped me and provided information which has helped my son, and I’m sure they will continue to do so as he grows up.”

**Thanks to the gifts that generous people like Lisa have made in their will, we can provide a lifetime of support to people affected by autism.**



“I felt it was important to support a vital service to help people with autism and their families.”

# Trusts: the options available

A trust is a legal arrangement where one or more 'trustees' are made legally responsible for holding **assets** in order to benefit others. The trustees are responsible for managing the trust and carrying out the wishes of the person who has put the assets into trust.

A trust is especially useful if you have a loved one on the spectrum who is not able to look after their finances or if any inheritance may impact their means-tested benefits.

Your solicitor or legal professional will be able to help you choose the most appropriate trust to meet your loved one's needs and will also be able to set up the trust. It's worth bearing in mind that there is a cost involved in setting up a trust, as well as annual administrative costs. But those costs should be minimal when balanced against the needs of the person with autism.

One of the simplest options you have is to leave your assets to a responsible person of your choice, in the hope that they will look after your loved one with autism. However it's worth considering the risks involved in this, for example what happens if that responsible person dies, becomes bankrupt, or for some other reason fails to look after your child as he or she promised.

Here's a summary of the different types of trusts to consider:

## 1) Life interest trust

One option is to set up a life interest trust (called a **liferent** in Scotland). This gives the person with autism the right to benefit from income generated by the trust fund during their lifetime. It means you can provide an income for your loved one with autism

throughout their life, and after that, the trust fund passes to whoever you choose, for example siblings or grandchildren. If the person with autism has no other relatives and has been supported by a charity during their life, you may decide you want the fund to pass to that charity, to help more people with autism.

One thing to bear in mind with this type of trust is that it will be taken into account in the calculation of means-tested benefits. So it is unlikely to be appropriate if the person with autism will need any level of means-tested benefits. Another issue is that the income from the trust will belong to the person with autism, so this option is only suitable if that person can manage their own finances.

## 2) Discretionary trust

A discretionary trust is the most flexible type of trust. It gives the trustees full powers to decide if and when the **beneficiaries** should receive either capital or income from the trust fund. This means that the money in the trust fund does not belong to any of the people who may benefit from it, and so it does not cause any loss of means-tested benefits. The amount given to the person with autism can also be controlled so that it is within the limits for means-testing, allowing maximum income benefits.

This is a helpful option if the person with autism is likely to be in residential care for life, dependent on substantial means-tested benefits or unable to manage their own finances. You need to bear in mind that there are taxes that apply to trusts, and the administration of trusts, so it's a good idea to discuss this with your legal adviser before making your decision.

You can extend the provision made through a discretionary trust by setting up a personal fund to pay for the needs that will not be met by means-tested benefits, such as holidays or computer equipment. Trustees can be given a power to advance capital, so that rather than paying the funds to the person with autism, they pay the funds directly to the supplier, for example the travel agent. These payments would not be taken into account in calculating entitlement to means-tested benefits.



If you do include a discretionary trust in your will, it is very important to keep your will up-to-date, taking into account any changes to means-tested benefits.

### 3) Disabled person's trust

This is a type of discretionary trust that can be set up for a person who is disabled, according to the definition outlined by the Government. As well as the benefits already mentioned under discretionary trusts, the main benefit of the disabled person's trust is the favourable tax treatment it receives for [Inheritance Tax](#), [Income Tax](#) and [Capital Gains Tax](#).

However, with a disabled person's trust, the income and capital must wholly benefit the disabled person, with the exception of either a small percentage or value, whichever is less, that can be used for another [beneficiary](#) each year. The trustees have the discretion whether to pay out or to accumulate the income or any of the capital in the trust which is why it is not taken into account when the beneficiary is assessed for means-tested benefits.

### 4) Private charitable trust

This type of trust can be useful if a person with autism is likely to be cared for in a residential service managed by a charity. It has the advantages of freedom from tax and protection from any loss of means-tested benefits.

A potential drawback of this type of trust is that it can't be used purely for the benefit of your child, as a charitable trust must be for the public benefit. If you set up a private charitable trust by way of another trust (eg Charities Aid Foundation), you could name your child as a potential beneficiary, but there would be no binding obligation for the charity, as that would compromise both the charitable status of the gift and the means-tested benefits of the beneficiary.

### Choosing trustees

If you are considering setting up a trust, you will need to consider who you would like to be the [trustees](#). It is important to weigh up the balance between those people who are best able to understand the needs of the person with autism and those people who will also be able to cope with the administration of the trust (which can involve tax and investment implications). A family member, together with professionals such as a legal adviser or accountant, may be a sensible mix. Professionals will charge a fee. It is a good idea to compare rates and check their terms and conditions before you make any decisions.

The trustees you choose must be able to co-operate with each other, as their decisions must be unanimous. As a trust may continue to exist for up to 125 years, it is important that the terms include the possibility for new trustees to be appointed and others to retire. It is recommended to have between two and four trustees.

It is important to remember that you cannot control the trustees' decisions. For the trust to be of real benefit to the person with autism, the trustees should be given flexible powers. This will enable them to deal with any change in the circumstances of the person with autism. The best you can do is to have the terms of the trust written extremely carefully, whether in your will or a [trust deed](#) (also called a Deed of Settlement). If you want a discretionary trust to be set up, you can leave a [letter of wishes](#). This is a document that gives your trustees guidance on how you would like the trust to be run but it is not legally binding.

### Telling other relatives

If you do create a trust, it's really important to tell other relatives. Telling your family members in good time will enable them to draft their own wills to benefit the person with autism appropriately – guarding against the potential loss of means-tested benefits by leaving any assets intended for a person with autism to the trust.

## Ilse and Helen's story

Back in the 1960s, Ilse Burnell was deeply frustrated by a lack of understanding faced by her daughter, Helen, in school. Helen has autism, and the education system didn't know how to deal with her. Thankfully, Helen was able to attend Sybil Elgar School in Ealing – the very first school established by the NAS.

“I started doing my own research and that's when I found out about a brilliant lady named Sybil Elgar who set up a school for children with autism.

“In the beginning there was no money or staff; just her and a group of determined parents who wanted their children to be accepted by society. Helen, my daughter, was one of ten children who attended this school. The school followed a similar curriculum to the national system and taught the children – initially deemed unable to be educated – to talk, read, write and socialise with others.

“The NAS opened a door to my family when we didn't know where to go. I'm so grateful for the work that they do. I have decided to leave a gift in my will to the NAS, as I know it will help towards continuing their good work.”

**Make sure help is always at hand for children and adults with autism and their families. Leaving a gift to The National Autistic Society will help more families like Ilse and Helen's in future.**



“The NAS opened a door to my family when we didn't know where to go.”

## Help shape the future

Together we can shape the future for people with autism. A future that is a fairer place, where nobody living with autism has to face the future alone and where specialist support and advice is available to all that need it. With a gift in your will, you can ensure The National Autistic Society can be here with a lifetime of support.

It doesn't have to be a lot, just whatever you can afford to give. We really appreciate any amount, and any type of gift you can offer, because it all helps us ensure we can be here for future generations.

### Reaching out to all those affected by autism

There are more than 700,000 people with autism in the UK. Together with their families that is up to 2.8 million who could need support. In the years ahead, our commitment to be here for everyone with autism will be more important than ever. But we cannot do it alone.

### All people living with autism should be able to lead the life they choose

We envisage a world where everyone living with autism:

- > gets the support, education and training they need
- > lives with dignity and as independently as possible
- > feels part of their community and wider society
- > is understood by all professionals who support them
- > is respected for who they are by a knowledgeable public.

## Give a lifetime of support

A gift to The National Autistic Society in your will can support people with autism throughout their lives. It could give children with autism the education they deserve through our specialist schools. It could help more families in crisis through keeping our helplines open. It could give adults with autism dignity and independence by funding our adult social groups. It could change the world for people with autism through funding our national campaigning and lobbying.

In the years to come, you can be a part of our work to support children and adults with autism and their families in so many ways.

### Remember the NAS with a gift in your will, and improve the future for families living with autism.

**£700** could help more than 50 people like Mhairi and Gavin to learn new skills and develop friendships through our e-befriending service.

**£10,000** could fund a political campaign to support families like Ilse and Helen's, raising awareness and improving access to support and employment (like our Autism Act campaign, which made legal history).

**£50,000** could help fund our Autism Helpline, providing advice and support that is desperately needed by thousands of families just like Lisa and James'.

Any gift you give to The National Autistic Society will be free of [Inheritance Tax](#) and, if you leave 10% or more of your estate to us then the rate at which your [executors](#) pay Inheritance Tax on the balance drops from 40% to 36%. This means that, for only a small reduction in how much you give friends and family you can ensure The National Autistic Society can be here with a lifetime of support.



# Your questions answered



**Kathryn Sykes is an Associate and Head of Department at Pickup & Scott Solicitors. Kathryn specialises in providing advice and assistance to vulnerable people and their families.**

## **Is making a will or changing a will expensive?**

There is no requirement to have any legal qualifications or knowledge to be able to write a will, you can even buy kits to make them at home. Consequently, there is a vast difference in the service you will receive and the protection and redress available to you if there is a problem.

I would always recommend going to a member of Solicitors for the Elderly, a member of The Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners or a member of the Institute of Professional Will Writers to make sure they have specialist knowledge.

Most solicitors make every effort to ensure that the cost of preparing wills is kept as reasonable as possible.

## **What is the difference between a will and a trust and do I need both?**

A will is a legal document that distributes your [estate](#) on your death and only comes into force at the time. A trust protects the [assets](#) placed in it for the people you want to benefit. If you have a loved one with autism and you would like to ensure they are financially protected long into the future, it is a good idea to have both.

## **How should I go about setting up a trust?**

Setting up a trust so that it achieves what is needed in your family's particular circumstances and adheres to trust laws and HMRC guidance can be quite tricky. It is best to speak to a legal professional or a trust adviser such as a member of The Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners.

## **What is a codicil and when can I use it?**

You can change your will by means of a [codicil](#) – which is an addition to a will. This is often cheaper than making a whole new will. However, I would recommend that you only use codicils to make simple changes to your will, for example adding in a gift to a charity. The codicil is a separate document which is kept with your will but they cannot be attached to each other.

## **How can I limit the amount of Inheritance Tax paid?**

[Inheritance Tax](#) is payable if your estate exceeds the Inheritance Tax allowance. If you leave your estate to an exempt [beneficiary](#), such as a spouse or charity, then no Inheritance Tax is payable on the value passing to that beneficiary.

I would recommend you seek advice from a professional who can give you tailored Inheritance Tax planning advice.

# Your questions answered

## Is it worth leaving money to the NAS if it's not that much?

Yes, definitely. Any gift you choose to leave to The National Autistic Society is gratefully received and will enable them to help more families like those you can read about in this booklet.

## Can the NAS be my executor?

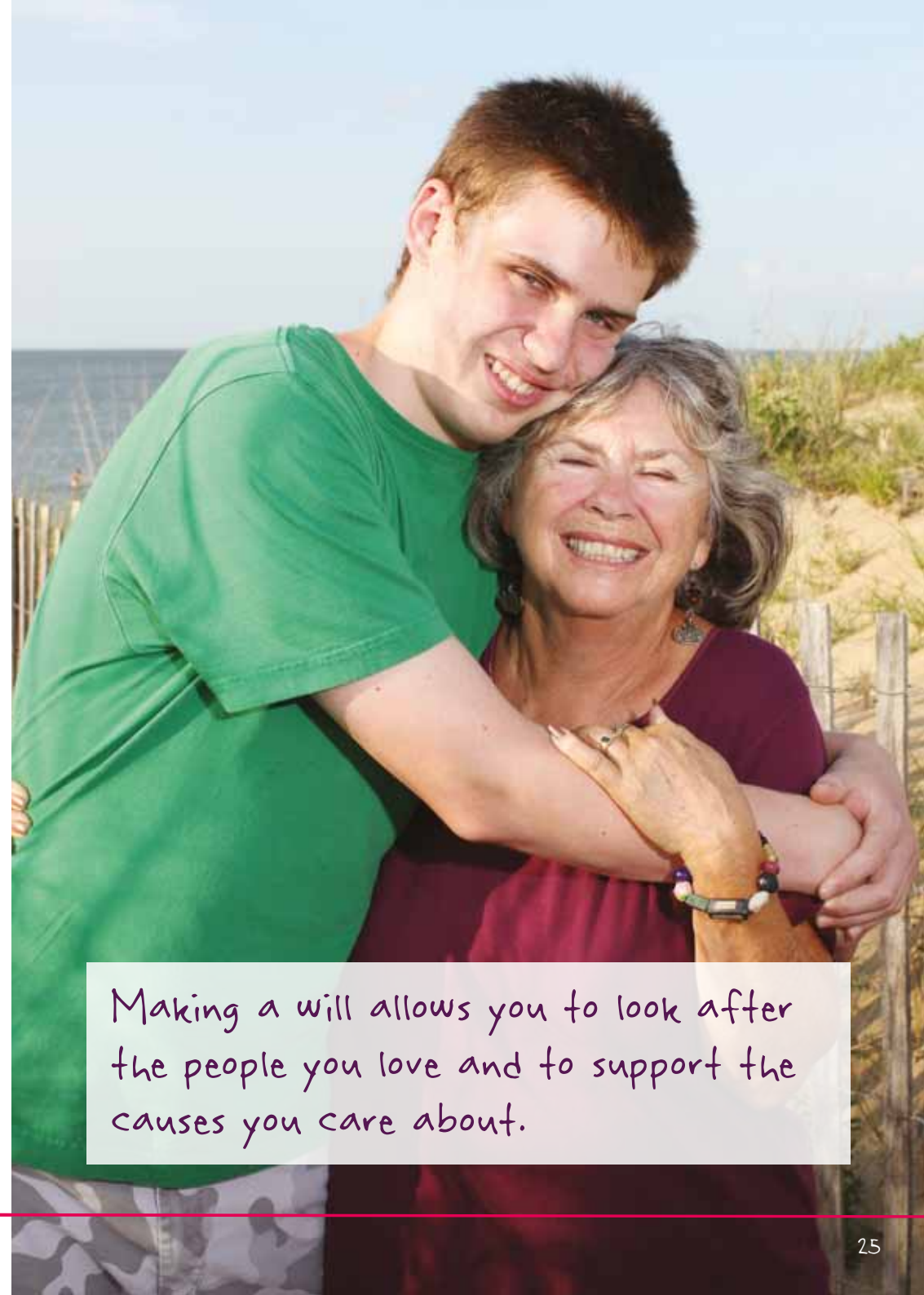
Unfortunately the NAS cannot act as an **executor** to your will. Most people generally appoint a friend, a family member or a professional. It is a good idea to have more than one executor though, just in case something happens to them.

## Can a gift to charity help me pay less tax?

Yes is the simple answer. Any gift to charity is exempt from Inheritance Tax. In addition, if you leave 10% or more of your estate which is above the Inheritance Tax threshold, the rate on which you are taxed on the balance reduces from 40% to 36%.

## Can I give a donation to the NAS 'in memory' of a friend or loved one?

Yes. It is a really good way to remember and pay tribute to someone close to you. By making a donation in their memory, you are making sure that their memory lives on through the vital work that the NAS does for people with autism. For more information on this type of gift, please visit:  
[www.autism.org.uk/donateinmemory](http://www.autism.org.uk/donateinmemory)



Making a will allows you to look after the people you love and to support the causes you care about.

# Helping you get started

Kathryn has provided these checklists to help you to be as prepared as possible for your meeting with a legal adviser.

There is room for you to make further notes on pages 32-34.

## Things to take to the meeting:

- > Your adviser will need to know your full names, address and contact details. It is also useful for them to have the full names, addresses and ages of all your children.
- > Bring with you two forms of ID such as your passport and your council tax bill.
- > It can be useful to bring your address book in case, after discussions with your adviser, you decide to include additional people, maybe as [executors](#).
- > Taking a copy of your title deeds, if you own your house, and any pension or life insurance policies is also helpful.

Your adviser will also need rough details of what [assets](#) and [liabilities](#) make up your [estate](#) and how much they are worth. This will enable them to give you [Inheritance Tax](#) advice. There is a list on page 30 to prepare for this aspect of your meeting.

## Questions about your will

- > Do you wish to appoint your spouse/partner as executor?

Yes  No

If yes, to act solely or jointly?

Solely  Jointly

- > Do you wish to name other individuals as executors?

Yes  No

If yes, to act solely, jointly or as back-up?

Solely  Jointly  Back-up

Remember to take their details to the meeting or you can write them in the back of this booklet.

## Guardians

- > If your children are under 18 do you wish to appoint a guardian for them?

Yes  No

You can write their full names and addresses in the back of this booklet.

## Gifts

The main part of your estate is called 'the residue'. Before giving away the residue you may wish to make certain gifts of cash or personal belongings to individual children, grandchildren, friends or charities. If you wish to leave any gifts it is helpful to bring a list of names and addresses of the recipients to the meeting along with a description of what you would like to give them.



# Helping you get started

## Gifts to be made on your death (whether you die first or second):

Name .....

Address .....

Item .....

Name .....

Address .....

Item .....

Name .....

Address .....

Item .....

## Residue

The residue of your estate is all that you own except jointly owned property and the gifts made in the previous section after the payment of all your funeral expenses and liabilities.

> Do you want your spouse/partner to receive the residue of your estate?

Yes  No

> Do you want your children to receive the residue of your estate after you and your spouse/partner have died or on your death if you have no spouse/partner?

Yes  No

> If your children die before you, do you want your grandchildren to receive your estate? (It does not matter if you do not yet have grandchildren.)

Yes  No

> At what age do you wish your children (or grandchildren) to receive the capital of your estate?

18  21  18  21

22  25  22  25

Other  ..... Other  .....

It is also a good idea to decide who you would like to inherit the residue of your estate if your spouse, children and grandchildren predecease you.

Would you like to leave a gift to a charity?

Yes  No

Charity name: .....

# Assets and liabilities checklist

Below is a list to help you put together your assets and liabilities that your solicitor or legal professional will need in order to help you write your will.

If you are writing your will with your partner then they will also have to complete the list.

## Assets

### Property:

Main residence	£	<input type="text"/>
Second home / holiday home	£	<input type="text"/>
Personal effects and contents (approx. sale value)	£	<input type="text"/>
Business	£	<input type="text"/>

### Investments:

Stocks & shares	£	<input type="text"/>
Shares in family company	£	<input type="text"/>
Unit Trusts / OIECS	£	<input type="text"/>
PEPs / TESSAs / ISAs	£	<input type="text"/>
NS&I (including Premium Bonds)	£	<input type="text"/>
Cash in bank	£	<input type="text"/>
Cash in building society	£	<input type="text"/>
Bonds	£	<input type="text"/>

## Assets (cont.)

### Pensions:

Personal pension (capital value)	£	<input type="text"/>
Company schemes (Death in service)	£	<input type="text"/>

### Life insurance:

Whole life insurance	£	<input type="text"/>
Term insurance	£	<input type="text"/>
Endowment insurance	£	<input type="text"/>

### Any other assets

(car, boat etc)	£	<input type="text"/>
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**TOTAL VALUE OF ASSETS** £

## Liabilities

House mortgage outstanding	£	<input type="text"/>
Bank loans or overdrafts	£	<input type="text"/>
Credit cards	£	<input type="text"/>
Other liabilities	£	<input type="text"/>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES** £

# Your notes

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A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes on page 33.





# Your notes

A series of horizontal dotted lines for taking notes.



# Glossary

**Assets** – Money and any other valuable things that you own, like your home, car, jewellery and investments.

**Beneficiary** – A person who benefits from provisions made in your will.

**Codicil** – An extra document to your will, which can be read together with your will.

**Dependant** – A person who depends on you for financial support, because they are a child or they have particular needs.

**Estate** – The sum of the money, property and other assets that you are leaving in your will.

**Executor** – A person responsible for dealing with the administration of your estate – including paying your bills, selling your assets and carrying out the requests you make in your will.

**Guardian** – A person given responsibility for taking care of a child, or an adult in need of support – although a Guardian for an adult cannot be appointed by will.

**Inheritance Tax** – A tax that is charged on the value of everything you own after your death. Not everyone pays Inheritance Tax on death. If the value of what you own is more than the limit set by the Government (which varies from time to time), the tax is payable by your executors. For more information visit [www.hmrc.gov.uk/inheritancetax](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/inheritancetax).

**Legacy** (or Bequest) – A gift of a sum of money or a particular item left in your will to a particular person or organisation.

**Letter of wishes** – An informal letter to your executors, signed and dated by you, where you can give more detail on the instructions in your will. It should be kept with your will.

**Liabilities** – Anything you owe, like mortgages, loans and any other debts you may have.

**Liferent** – (In Scotland) A legal right to receive the benefits of a property or other asset, during a lifetime.

**Life Interest Trust** – A trust under which a specific person benefits from the assets held within the trust during their lifetime – such as receiving the income or living in a property held in the trust.

**Life Tenant** – The beneficiary under a Life Interest Trust. They benefit from the trust during their lifetime.

**Testator** – A legal term for the person making a will.

**Trust** – A legal arrangement that allows a person or organisation to look after someone else's money.

**Trust deed** – A written legal document stating the terms of the trust and the trustees.

**Trustee** – A person responsible for managing a trust. If you are creating the trust in your will, your executors and trustees are normally the same people.

**Will** – A legal document that gives instructions about what should happen to your money and possessions after you die. It needs to be signed, dated and witnessed by two people.

## Useful contacts

### **The National Autistic Society**

393 City Road, London, EC1V 1NG

Supporter Care: **0808 800 1050**

Autism Helpline: **0808 800 4104**

Legacy Manager: **020 7903 3580**

Email: **legacies@nas.org.uk**

Website: **www.autism.org.uk**

### **The Law Society**

Provides information on solicitors.

Tel: **020 7320 5650**

Email: **info.services@lawsociety.org.uk**

Website: **www.lawsociety.org.uk**

### **The Law Society of Scotland**

Tel: **0131 226 7411**

Email: **lawscot@lawscot.org.uk**

Website: **www.lawscot.org.uk**

### **The Law Society of Northern Ireland**

Tel: **028 9023 1614**

Email: **info@lawsoc-ni.org**

Website: **www.lawsoc-ni.org**

### **Office of the Public Guardian**

Provides financial protection services for clients in England and Wales who are not able to manage their own financial affairs because of incapacity.

Tel: **0300 456 0300**

Email: **customerservices@publicguardian.gsi.gov.uk**

Website: **www.gov.uk/office-of-public-guardian**

### **The Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners**

Find your local branch for legal advice and will writing services.

Tel: **020 7340 0500**

Email: **step@step.org**

Website: **www.step.org**

### **Disclaimer**

August 2014: This guide is intended as an outline only, and reliance should not be placed on it without seeking more detailed advice from a professional legal adviser in light of your own personal circumstances. This guide is based on English law and practice in force on the date it was prepared.



We are the leading UK charity for people with autism (including Asperger syndrome) and their families. With the help of our members, supporters and volunteers we provide information, support and pioneering services, and campaign for a better world for people with autism.

Around 700,000 people in the UK have autism. Together with their families they make up around 2.8 million people whose lives are touched by autism every single day. From good times to challenging times, The National Autistic Society is there at every stage, to help transform the lives of everyone living with autism.

***We are proud of the difference we make.***

For general enquiries contact:

**The National Autistic Society**

393 City Road

London EC1V 1NG

Supporter Care Team: **0808 800 1050**

Autism Helpline: **0808 800 4104**

Minicom: **0845 070 4003**

Email: **[nas@nas.org.uk](mailto:nas@nas.org.uk)**

Website: **[www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)**