

Caring for the Carer

Legacies & bequests

Have you thought about including the Alzheimer Society of Ireland in your Will?



Many charitable organisations receive a considerable part of their revenue this way. If you are considering making the Society a beneficiary, what should you do?

Step 1: Do talk to someone before making any decisions.

Step 2: Make an appointment to see your solicitor. The following wording as suggested by our legal adviser may be useful to take with you:

I BEQUEATH to The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (Registered Charity Number CHY 7868) of Alzheimer House, 43 Northumberland Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin the sum of € _____ AND I DECLARE that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer shall be a complete discharge to my personal representatives.

Other points to take into account:

If your intended gift is 'of the residue of the estate, or a proportion thereof' (in other words, what is left after your main bequests have been made) then the Society should be described as in the above form of bequest and a similar 'receipt' clause included.

The Society does not provide specimen clauses of residuary bequests because they need to be related to the other provisions of the Will. Similarly, if a gift to the Society is to be made by codicil, the document should not be drawn up without reference to the Will and any previous codicil.

The assistance of a solicitor in the preparation of any testamentary document is very strongly recommended. The Society's National Office is always pleased to help with questions from solicitors. Your solicitor may want to know that the Society is registered as a company limited by guarantee.

Leaving property

Did you know that...

- (1) If you are the sole owner of a property you can leave that property under your Will to whoever you wish to benefit - it can either be lumped together with the rest of your estate or given as a separate benefit. (This is subject to any over-riding rights of your spouse or children).
- (2) If you own your property jointly with your husband or wife you probably own the property as joint tenants or possibly as tenants in common. If you hold as joint tenants and one owner dies, the house passes automatically to the remaining owner. If you hold as tenants in common, each owner normally owns a half share of the property and you can leave your half share of the property under your Will to whomever you wish. (Subject to any over-riding rights of your spouse, or your children).
- (3) It is also possible to leave a life interest in a house that you own - ie the beneficiary has the use of the property during their life-time but on their death it passes in accordance with the terms of the Will. It is usual in these circumstances to appoint trustees.

In ALL of these three cases, you can leave property to the Society

- either separately as in paragraph 1
- or when you can leave a half share of the property as in paragraph 2
- or as in paragraph 3 when the party having life interest in the property passes away.

You can benefit the Society in a tax efficient way, for example, by giving money or by gifting or leaving bequests up to the tax limit to non-exempt beneficiaries and the balance to an exempt beneficiary such as the Society. Taxation advice from a competent person should first be obtained and carefully considered.

How would the money be spent?

Generally speaking, the money raised from legacies is be used to help the Society to develop its national services such as respite care, day care, home care, branch development, support groups and contacts. Providing support on the ground is one of the most effective ways in which the Society can assist the person with dementia and their carers.

However, with larger bequests it may be possible to start a new project such as a new respite/day care centre and even name it after the benefactor, perhaps in the area where he/she lived during his/her lifetime.

If you are thinking of making bequests of this sort, contact the Alzheimer Society of Ireland to discuss a way of perpetuating the name of the donor or person with dementia concerned.

Remembering the Society in your Will by legacy or bequest, however large or small, really can make a huge difference and is one of the most valuable and far reaching ways that you can help.