



Your LEGACY

Gifts in Wills

Your gift could help

www.adoptionmatters.org

Registered Charity Number: 512892

 **adoption
matters**
A proud history of children's futures

What we do



Thank you for thinking about leaving a Gift in your Will to Adoption Matters. By including a gift in your Will you will leave a lasting legacy to improve the lives and futures of local children and their families.

Adoption Matters is a children's charity and voluntary adoption agency established in 1947.

We recruit, train and prepare families seeking to adopt and offer them ongoing support and development throughout the adoption process and for as long as they need it. We have also been providing a support and guidance service for adopted children, adults and birth families for over 70 years. We cover the whole of the North of England, North Wales, Stoke, Stafford and Shropshire.

Our Centre for Adoption Support (CfAS) is an innovative service delivering a broad menu of training, workshops and therapeutic interventions to families, local authorities and education professionals. This

approach ensures that adoption and permanency placements are fully supported across home and educational settings. The experienced multi-disciplinary team at the Centre works closely with families and professionals to equip them with the necessary knowledge, understanding and strategies needed to support their children throughout the different stages along their adoption journey.

Our Concurrent Planning Service combines elements of fostering and adoption to offer babies and very young children the best possible start by reducing the number of moves between foster care and adoption. The Service places children on behalf of all the Regional Adoption Agencies in the North West, and is the largest of its kind in the country.

“Although we were desperate to have children and a family of our own following infertility and several attempts of IVF, I am not sure we would have endured the adoption process if we did not enter into this new journey with the support, knowledge and care from Adoption Matters social workers.”



“The whole process was very professional and this left us both feeling confident we had made the right decision. Even now nearly 3 years since we became a family of 3 we know Adoption Matters are only a phone call away.”



How your gift could help

At Adoption Matters we believe that children's welfare and needs are paramount and we aim for them to grow up in a secure and loving family that will best meet their long-term needs and help them to reach their full potential.

In order to do this and in recognition of the lifelong impact of adoption, we provide a comprehensive adoption service for all the parties involved, offering support and advice to prospective adopters, adoptive families, children, adopted children and adults. We also provide information, guidance, support with birth records counselling and provide intermediary services to adopted adults and birth relatives.

Why do we need the funds? What difference will your gift make to Adoption Matters?

The more funding we can raise:

- **the more children we can place.** Additional funding gives us the opportunity to recruit adoptive families more widely and to target our campaigns to reach adopters for specific children. We can raise awareness of adoption by sharing positive stories, profiling the children waiting and highlighting the need for more adopters to come forward. We know that many children are waiting too long for a permanent placement and that the longer they spend in care, the more difficult it becomes to find placements for them. Our charitable income allows us the flexibility to respond quickly to changes in the adoption sector by ensuring we have the capacity to prepare and assess more families.
 - **the more we can develop and enhance our adoption support services.** Our CfAS service is managed by a small team of therapeutic social workers and we continue to develop the range of specialisms and interventions we are able to offer. Demand on the service is extremely high and we sometimes
- have to turn work down as we do not have the capacity to deliver it. Our funding will be used to grow our team to provide additional workshops, webinars and one-to-one sessions allowing us to support many more families.
- **the more 'fun stuff' we can offer.** We can organise more "fun" outings/events for the children and their adoptive families, supporting them in sharing their experiences in a more relaxed environment – such as our Centre for Adoption Support Choir, outdoor activity days, drama groups etc. These activities allow adopted children and their families to build strong peer networks and aids health and wellbeing.
 - **the more services we can offer for post-adoption support.** This includes specialist social workers to help adopted adults trace their birth families and birth records and sharing information with them in an appropriate and considered way along with counselling and reunion services. This will also provide support for adult adoptees who are above the upper age limit for accessing the Adoption Support Fund (ASF).



Important Questions



Why do I need a Will?

Having a Will in place gives you peace of mind and ensures that you look after your loved ones when the time comes.

No one knows what the future holds and our circumstances change throughout our lives. Our annual Will Week is also an ideal opportunity for you to make or update your Will, whilst supporting Adoption Matters.

How much does it cost to make a Will?

The average cost of writing a simple Will with a reputable solicitor is around £200, depending on where you live and which solicitor you choose. Please note: the suggested cost is based on straightforward Wills. If there are complications then additional charges will need to be added.

Can I write my own Will?

Writing your own Will, even with a DIY Will pack, can be risky because probate law, inheritance tax and the language used are not always straightforward. If you don't follow all the required legal procedures, you could inadvertently make your Will null and void.

Who will tell Adoption Matters when I've passed away?

Usually your executor would inform us of your death and the administration of your estate would then begin. We suggest you tell friends, family or neighbours, even your doctor, who your executor is. To ensure information about your estate is clearly available for your executor, it is advisable to complete an Estate Pack. You can list key contacts and provide information, such as where important documents are stored, what provisions you have made for your pets, and your funeral wishes and plans.

Can Adoption Matters clear the contents of my house when the time comes?

We would recommend that you instruct your executor to arrange for the contents of your home to be sold and the proceeds then donated to Adoption Matters if that is your wish.

Are there any steps I can take to reduce the chances of my Will being challenged in court?

The best way to ensure that your Will can withstand a legal challenge is to have it drawn up by a solicitor. Many challenges are brought by people who are surprised by a Will's contents.

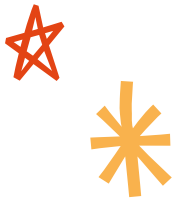
They may not believe that the Will represents the person's genuine wishes if they do not understand them. Therefore, it is often a good idea to explain, perhaps in a letter signed at the same time and kept with the Will, why you have chosen your beneficiaries.

Can a Gift to charity help me pay less tax?

Yes. Gifts to UK-registered charities can help reduce the amount of Inheritance Tax that needs to be paid on your estate. We strongly recommend you speak to a solicitor for advice on tax issues.

"We cannot begin to tell you the joy that he has brought into our lives and to those close to us."





What sort of Gift should I leave?

After you've looked after those closest to you, it's amazing how much difference even a small percentage of your estate can make. There are four main types of gift:

A share of your estate (also known as a Residuary gift)

"Estate" may sound grand, but it just means "the total value of all property and assets". You can leave a percentage of what remains from your estate after all other gifts and deductions are made.

A fixed sum of money (also known as a Pecuniary gift)

To ensure that it keeps its value over the years, you can ask your solicitor to make it index-linked.

A specific gift

You can also leave specific things that you own such as jewellery, a painting, or property.

Reversionary gift

A two-stage gift where assets are first held in a trust to provide some benefit to an individual. This could be a property for them to live in or income generated by investments. Once that individual's need for the property (or trust) ends, the assets then pass to a second beneficiary, such as a charity.



"It has been a journey of trials and tribulations, but I wouldn't change it for the world. We have 'our girls' who are so close and an absolute blessing to us."







We'd love to hear from you

If you decide to include a gift in your Will to Adoption Matters, we'd really like to hear from you. We'll treat your information with complete confidence. It's not binding in any way, but it will give us a chance to say thank you today. We'd also love to hear your story about why Adoption Matters has a special place in your heart.

For more information and support please call us on **0300 123 1066** or email **fundraising@adoptionmatters.org**

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Registered Charity Number: 512892



Rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted



Members of:

