



change their world

Your legacy. Their future. Our purpose.

Learn about leaving a gift to Mencap in your Will.

Why leave a gift to Mencap in your Will?

The world needs to change, even more than it has already, for people with a learning disability.

They face inequality in every area of life, every day. They are stared at, denied education and refused jobs. They are ignored and forgotten. While attitudes have come a long way since Mencap was formed in 1946, we still have a way to go before people who have a learning disability are treated with the same respect and equal rights as those who don't.

Mencap are determined, and truly make a difference through relentless campaigning at a national level. We fight for every child with a learning disability to have the best start in life. We continue to support them into adulthood by ensuring they receive the right education. We help them into employment, and guide them through the healthcare system.

We understand the needs of people with a learning disability because we've been campaigning on their behalf for over 70 years.

With your help, we won't stop. We will change the world for people with a learning disability.

With your support we will fight for a world where society sees a person before they see the learning disability, a world in which those with a learning disability aren't seen as 'different' or 'other'. A world in which the aspirations and contributions of people who have a learning disability are valued equally to those who don't.

By leaving a gift to Mencap in your Will we can continue to campaign for equal rights, support and respect for every man, woman and child with a learning disability in the UK.

With a gift to Mencap in your Will, you have the power to change their world - today, tomorrow and beyond.

Speak to Mencap's Gifts in Wills Team **0207 696 6915**

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Changing Rosie's world

Tom knows better than anyone how Mencap can change lives.

Writing his online blog *The Future's Rosie*, about day-to-day life raising a daughter with a learning disability, first brought him into contact with the charity.

He says: "I've learned so much from Mencap about all aspects of learning disability. They continue to push boundaries with new and innovative ways to make society more accepting and gain a better understanding about life with a learning disability."

Tom and his family found out Rosie had Down's syndrome before she was born. With two sons already, they weren't sure what to expect – and had to source their own support, both educationally and emotionally.

Now just seven years old, little Rosie has proved to them that having a child with Down's syndrome was nothing to fear, and she is a happy and much-loved daughter, sister, granddaughter, cousin, niece and friend. Nonetheless, the family have experienced a whole range of emotions, from fear in the early months as their daughter underwent hours of open heart surgery, to readjustment as they fitted not just another child but one with a learning disability into their family dynamic.

"Rosie brings so much joy to our family and we wouldn't change a single thing about her," says Tom. "Yes, she does have a learning disability, but this is not what defines her. Hopefully as she grows up she can help society see her for who she is."

"Rosie brings so much joy to our family and we wouldn't change a single thing about her."

Tom, Rosie's Dad

Tom has found working with Mencap a hugely positive experience, providing a collective voice for families such as his, who may otherwise struggle to be heard.

“Mencap do an amazing job of challenging the Government to do more, and of campaigning relentlessly for change. It’s surprising and somewhat shocking to learn that my daughter’s life can still be valued less than someone else’s purely because she happens to have a learning disability. Without Mencap’s knowledge, expertise and passion for change I really don’t think progress could be made so effectively and efficiently.”

With Mencap constantly involving families to get their opinions, and keeping up to date in the fast-changing world of legislation, Tom values the charity’s forward-thinking campaigns to challenge the way society thinks about learning disability.

And his hopes for Rosie’s future? One which every father would hope for their child: “That she is able to receive the same support and opportunities as her peers in order to reach her full potential. I hope one day Rosie will have a good level of independence but am also aware that this will only happen by receiving the right level of support.

“I would love to see a future where Rosie can thrive and be respected and valued in society for the wonderful girl she is, and not judged by her learning disability.”

Now it’s your chance to change the world for Rosie and other people with a learning disability, giving them a brighter future filled with opportunities.

“Without Mencap’s knowledge, expertise and passion for change I really don’t think progress could be made so effectively and efficiently.”

Tom, Rosie’s Dad



5 things to consider when making your Will

Planning your Will

When you begin thinking about your Will it can be a good idea to write down all your assets and then decide what you would like to leave and to whom. To help you with this, download Mencap's free Will Planner online by visiting www.mencap.org.uk/willplanner

Funeral plans

In your Will you may wish to include any funeral wishes or plans you may have. Many people choose to plan for their funerals in this way so that it is one less thing for their loved ones to worry about after their passing.

Inheritance Tax

Inheritance Tax is a concern many people have when planning for their Wills, so if you are concerned about this visit www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax to find out more about how it may affect you. Including a gift to charity may be a good way to reduce the amount of Inheritance Tax your estate may be subject to. Any gift you leave to Mencap or any other charity will be exempt from Inheritance Tax.

Reviewing your Will

It is worth reviewing your Will now and again, especially at important life stages, for example when grandchildren are born as you may then wish to include them to benefit from your Will.

Legal advice

We would recommend visiting a solicitor to have your Will written. Mencap also offers free Will services for supporters from time to time. If you are interested in having your Will written through this service and would like to support Mencap at the same time, please get in contact with us. There is no obligation to include a gift to Mencap in your Will but through using this service many people kindly choose to.

How to include a gift to Mencap in your Will

If you would like to kindly include a gift to Mencap in your Will there are three main ways to do this.

A share of your estate

Many people choose to leave a share of their estate to charity - this can be a percentage of what is left over once loved ones are provided for or it can be any percentage you like. As this gift is a proportion of your estate it keeps pace with inflation.

Fixed sum of money

You can choose to leave a fixed sum of money, also known as a pecuniary gift. You can choose any amount you like but it is worth remembering that if you do decide to leave this type of gift, it's important to review it from time to time as inflation can reduce its value.

Gift of a specific item

You can also choose to leave a particular item to Mencap, such as a piece of jewellery, an antique or even a property. A gift like this should be named in your Will.

Essentials to include

In order to include a gift to Mencap you should make sure your Will states our full name, address, and registered charity number:

- Royal Mencap Society of
123 Golden Lane, London
EC1Y 0RT
- Registered charity number
222377 (England and Wales)
SC041079 (Scotland)

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the power to
change the world
for people with a
learning disability -
today, tomorrow
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Frequently asked questions

Do I really need a Will?

Having a Will allows you to make sure that you can choose who you would like to receive your assets after you die. Many people assume their partner will inherit their assets so don't feel the need to make a Will. However, if you are unmarried or are in a civil partnership, your loved one won't automatically inherit your assets like they would if you were married.

To make sure your partner is provided for you can name them in your Will. If you don't have any family members to pass on your assets to, you may consider including a charity to benefit from your Will.

What is an executor and why do I need one?

An executor is someone who looks after your Will once you have died, to ensure that your wishes are followed through. You can appoint a family member or a friend to be an executor, even if they are set to benefit from your Will. Alternatively you can appoint a solicitor or financial advisor but note that there will be fees involved with this.

I have a dependant with a learning disability, how can I provide for them in my Will?

If you have a child or other loved one with a learning disability we would recommend setting up a Trust for them. This is because if they inherit a lump sum of money, it can affect any means-tested benefits they currently or may one day receive. A Trust ensures that your money for your child is protected for their future. If you would like more information on this please don't hesitate to contact Mencap's Wills & Trusts Service on 0207 696 6925 or visit www.mencap.org.uk/willsandtrusts

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Please contact Mencap's Gifts in Wills Team for more information on making your Will and including a gift to Mencap, or if you would just like to speak to someone to talk through your options.

Telephone: 0207 696 6915

Email: giftsinwills@mencap.org.uk

Visit: www.mencap.org.uk/change