



**Sight
Scotland**

Let's focus on the future

Your gifts in Wills guide



You can transform the lives of future generations

For more than 230 years, Sight Scotland has helped people with sight loss in Scotland lead fulfilling lives and achieve their ambitions.

But the care, support and hope we provide would never be possible without people like you including a gift in your Will to fund our life-changing work.

Across Scotland, there are 180,000 people living with blindness and severe sight loss. A number that's set to rise significantly over the next 10 years, because of our nation's ageing population.

By including a gift in your Will, you'll provide specialist care and support that helps people overcome barriers, become empowered and flourish.

Your kindness will fund groundbreaking research

focused on improving diagnoses, treatments and care, and which may even lead to cures for certain conditions. Please read this guide to find out more about how your generosity can help create a future where thousands of people in Scotland are spared the devastating effects of sight loss.

We've also included plenty of advice about what to consider when making or updating your Will. And if you ever have a question, please don't hesitate to contact our friendly Gifts in Wills Team.

Best wishes,

Craig Spalding

Craig Spalding
Chief Executive



Shirley is focused on the future. She's included a gift in her Will to Sight Scotland.

"The son of one of my closest friends has been supported by Sight Scotland for many years. I know about the many struggles Charlie and his family have faced because of his sight loss.

"But I also know how Sight Scotland have helped him emotionally and practically, and opened doors that would normally have been shut.

"That's why I'm including a gift in my Will to the charity. I want to help future generations receive the same high level of support as Charlie.

"I want to help fund research that leads to new treatments which cure sight loss."

– Shirley, Edinburgh

Contact our friendly Gifts in Wills Team:
giftsinwills@sightscotland.org.uk or 0131 446 3089

Over 230 years of supporting people with sight loss

For over 230 years, Sight Scotland has proudly supported blind and partially sighted people and funded research to prevent avoidable blindness and sight loss.

By including a gift in your Will to Sight Scotland, you can continue our life-changing work and help create a future where people in Scotland are spared the devastating effects of sight loss.

1793

Founded by Reverend Dr David Johnston, Dr Thomas Blacklock and Mr David Miller, we become only the third foundation in the world dedicated to improving the welfare of blind people.

1875

The Royal Blind School is established when our educational unit merges with Edinburgh's School for Blind Children to provide lessons to children with sight loss.

1915

We establish a sister charity to support soldiers blinded in the First World War. Today, the charity is known as Sight Scotland Veterans, and it supports all ex-service personnel affected by sight loss.

1953

Our braille production service moved into an independent purpose-built facility on the Craigmillar Park campus under the operating name of the Scottish Braille Press.

1991

We open Canaan Lodge, a purpose-built school for children with multiple disabilities and visual impairment. We also open Canaan Home, which offers residential and nursing care to older people living with sight loss.

2010

We extend our adult services, opening our Forward Vision residential care services providing 24-hour personalised care for young adults.

2021

We launch new community services, including a helpline, to provide support to people with sight loss and their families, carers and friends.

Today

We continue to develop innovative services to meet the all-round needs of people living with sight loss, and we fund groundbreaking research to improve diagnoses, treatment and care.

The future

With your support, we'll ensure everyone with sight loss has the opportunity to live a fulfilling life. Our research will also lead the way to new treatments that prevent avoidable blindness and sight loss.

You can read more about our history at
sightscotland.org.uk/about-us/our-history

Make life-changing breakthroughs possible



At Sight Scotland, we are on a mission to prevent avoidable blindness and sight loss.

But to reach this critical goal, we need to continue investing in groundbreaking research.

It's only through clinicians and researchers making breakthroughs in laboratories that we'll improve diagnoses, treatment and care for thousands.

Innovative research projects funded by our supporters

Cataloguing and evaluating thousands of images of people's retinas

This project (known as SCONE) has the potential to develop new technologies that detect eye diseases in the earliest stages. This includes age-related macular degeneration, the leading cause of sight loss in the UK.

Identifying mutated genes that cause inherited eye conditions

Currently, 30% of people with an inherited retinal dystrophy (IRD) don't know which mutated gene has caused their genetic eye condition. This project aims to identify these missing genes to give people access to innovative treatments that could save their sight.

Using molecular technology to reverse sight loss

This project aims to reverse the sight loss of people with retinitis pigmentosa caused by a defect to their USH2A gene. This involves molecular technology being injected into the body and travelling to human cells to correct the faulty USH2A gene.



Help people live fulfilling lives

Sight loss is scary. It can leave people feeling vulnerable, alone and isolated. That's why, as well as funding research, we've been providing specialist support to blind and visually impaired people for over 230 years.

Today, we provide a wide range of specialist services to meet people's physical, emotional and practical needs. This includes our Royal Blind School, which has transformed the lives of children with sight loss for nearly 150 years.

Please consider leaving a gift in your Will to support our life-changing services. Please help us give everyone with sight loss the opportunity to live a fulfilling life.

Life-changing services funded by our supporters

Royal Blind School

We support and empower children and young people so they develop skills for life, gain



formal qualifications and reach their personal goals.

Family Wellbeing Service

We provide practical, emotional and wellbeing support to help whole families overcome the challenges, loneliness and mental health issues caused by sight loss.

Support Line

We provide free, confidential and impartial information and advice to people living sight loss, as well as their families and friends.

Specialist care and accommodation

In a homely setting, we offer tailored support to young adults with sight loss and additional disabilities so they feel safe and comfortable and live the best life possible.



“

I now see a brighter future because of Sight Scotland.

Amanda's world was turned upside down when she started to lose her sight at just 26.

Here, she talks about the devastation of being diagnosed with a genetic eye condition, the life-changing support she's received from Sight Scotland, and the need for ongoing research that could change the lives of future generations.

I was heartbroken when I was diagnosed with Stargardt disease. Being told at such a young age that I was going to experience progressive sight loss was a huge shock and incredibly upsetting.

Stargardt means I have a blockage in both my eyes that affects my central vision. It's now got to the point where I can't read the sizes of my daughter's clothes and faces

are quite fuzzy and blurry. It's only when people are close to me that I can make out who they are.

Practically and emotionally, the care and support I've received from Sight Scotland has been a godsend. Debbie from the Family Wellbeing Service really understands what it's like to live with Stargardt and what my personal needs are.

She's helped me access equipment and technology that's right for me and which has kept me independent. Without her help, I wouldn't be able to cook or clean.

It's also great to have someone who's always willing to listen to you and work through issues you're facing. Family and friends have been brilliant, but it's hard for them to fully understand what I'm going through.

Looking forward, I now see a brighter future because of Sight Scotland. Thanks to their wonderful supporters, I know the charity will always be by my side to help.

I'm also incredibly thankful that the charity is investing in research too. There's a 1 in 4 chance my young daughter will be diagnosed with Stargardt disease. The thought of her having to go through what I've been through fills me with dread.

That's why I'd urge anyone reading my story to consider including a gift in their Will to Sight Scotland. Your kindness and generosity could lead to improved diagnoses, treatments and care that transform the futures of families like mine.



The importance of writing your Will

Creating a legal Will provides you with the opportunity to take care of the people that matter to you the most.

This is important because simply telling your loved ones what your wishes are or writing them down is not enough.

After you've taken care of family and friends in your Will, you may also want to consider

including gifts to support causes you care about, such as Sight Scotland.

Gifts in Wills are incredibly vital to the ongoing funding of our research and services. Without them, we couldn't transform the lives of so many people living with blindness and sight loss in Scotland.

Our promise to you

- We understand that family and friends will always come first when you write your Will
- We understand it's totally up to you whether you tell us you're leaving a gift to Sight Scotland. But if you do tell us, it will help us plan for the future and inform you about our work in the best way
- We'll use your gift wisely and make sure it has the greatest impact possible
- We'll answer your questions fully and honestly, so you always feel informed
- If you do pledge to leave us a gift in your Will, this promise is not legally binding
- You can change your mind at any time about a gift you've left to us in your Will
- We will always respect your privacy and never pressure you for information.

The types of gifts you can include in your Will

A share of your estate

This is known as a residuary gift. It is a percentage of your estate you may wish to leave to a charity after taking care of your loved ones and financial commitments.

Because a residuary gift is a percentage of your estate, it will keep its value over time.

Sum of money

This is called a pecuniary gift. It's a fixed amount of money you include in your Will. It's a good idea to regularly review pecuniary gifts, because the cost of living can reduce their value over time.

A specific gift

This is when you state in your Will that you would like to leave someone a specific item, such as a piece of jewellery, a painting or shares.

Gift in trust

This is a gift someone can use over a specified period of time, such as a property. Once that period ends, the gift can be passed on to a loved one or a charity.

Wording to make sure your wishes are carried out

If you decide to include a gift in your Will to Sight Scotland, it's important that you use our registered charity name and the following wording. This will help to ensure your wishes are carried out.

Share of your estate (residuary gift)

I give __% / the rest of my estate after payment of funeral and testamentary expenses and debts to Royal Blind Asylum and School, trading as Sight Scotland, registered charity number SC017167, 2A Robertson Avenue, Edinburgh EH11 1PZ, free of inheritance tax absolutely for its general charitable purposes.

Sum of money (pecuniary gift)

I give the sum of £__ to Royal Blind Asylum and School, trading as Sight Scotland, registered charity number SC017167, 2A Robertson Avenue, Edinburgh EH11 1PZ, free of inheritance tax absolutely for its general charitable purposes.

A specific gift

If you wish to leave a specific gift or gift in trust, please contact our Gifts in Wills Team at giftsinwills@sightscotland.org.uk or call 0131 446 3089. We can advise you on the best wording to use in your Will.

We strongly advise that you seek independent professional advice from your own solicitor or advisor when drawing up your Will.

Free Wills service

We would be delighted if you used Bequeathed, our Will writing partner, to create a new Will or have an existing one updated.

With Bequeathed, you can do this online or over the phone. All you need to be is over 18 and writing or updating a simple single or joint Will.

When you use Bequeathed, you'll get step-by-step guidance and support throughout the Will writing process.

You can also request 30 mins of free legal advice, or 45 minutes if you're a couple that's making a joint Will.

There's also no obligation to leave a gift to Sight Scotland when you make your Will with Bequeathed, but any gift would be greatly appreciated.



Please visit **bequeathed.org** to find out more, or call **020 8191 0587**.

If you have any questions about this service, please don't hesitate to contact our friendly Gifts in Wills Team.

Scan here to go straight to our webpage



make your Will For Good

Contact our friendly Gifts in Wills Team:
giftsinwills@sightscotland.org.uk or 0131 446 3089

Questions you may have

I'm not wealthy – can I still make a difference?

We receive gifts of all different sizes. Whatever you can give will fund pioneering research to improve diagnoses, treatments and care for people who are blind or living with sight loss. Your generosity will also help people affected by sight loss get the support and opportunities they need to live a fulfilling life.

What are the tax advantages of leaving a gift to Sight Scotland?

Gifts to charities are completely tax free. This means a gift to Sight Scotland can help to reduce the inheritance tax you pay on your estate. This is especially relevant to larger estates of over £325,000.

For more information, we recommend you visit gov.uk/inheritance-tax. It provides clear, up-to-date information on this issue. Alternatively, speak to your solicitor or tax adviser for guidance.

When should I write my Will?

If you don't have a Will, there's no better time to write one than now. If you already have a Will, you should review it regularly, and especially at the time of any major life events, such as getting married, moving home or the birth of a child or grandchild. Having a valid Will ensures your wishes are carried out after your passing.

Can you help me write or amend my Will?

We can't provide you with legal advice. If you have any legal queries or want confirmation your Will is valid, we recommend you speak to a solicitor or use our Will writing partner, Bequeathed.

Can I write my own Will?

You can, but one tiny error can invalidate your entire Will. That's why we strongly recommend you use a Will writing service or solicitor to write one.

Please see page 12 of this booklet to read about Bequeathed, the free Will writing service we work with.

We also recommend you use the Law Society of Scotland's 'find a solicitor' search tool to find a local solicitor. It's available at lawscot.org.uk/find-a-solicitor

Should I let you know if I include a gift to Sight Scotland in my Will?

This is completely up to you. But if you do let us know,

it will help us plan for the future more confidently, and we'd love to send you a thank you note for your generosity.

You can let us know your intentions by contacting our Gifts in Wills Team using the contact details below. We'll treat any information you provide in the strictest confidence.



Contact our friendly Gifts in Wills Team:
giftsinwills@sightscotland.org.uk or 0131 446 3089



**Sight
Scotland**

Thank you

We just wanted to say a big thank you for taking the time to read our gifts in Wills guide.

We hope you found it reassuring and helpful, because we do understand that thinking about and writing your Will can be a sensitive matter.

Hopefully, you now feel more informed creating or updating your Will – something you can use to take care of your loved ones and the causes you care about.



If you have any questions about including a gift in your Will to Sight Scotland, please don't hesitate to contact our friendly Gifts in Wills Team at giftsinwills@sightscotland.org.uk or call **0131 446 3089**.

You can also visit sightscotland.org.uk/leave-a-gift-in-your-will for further information.

Registered Charity No. SC017167