

plant a seed for future  
generations in Ireland



IFES  
IRELAND

a guide to making a will  
and making a difference  
through IFES Ireland

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## Why make a will?

Making a will an important way of looking after your family and loved ones when you die and of ensuring that your resources are used in accordance with your priorities and values. Because it is a legal document you can be assured that your wishes will be honoured.

Deciding how to use your estate, should you die without a will, can be very complicated and difficult. So making one also helps those you leave behind in a very practical way.

A will is a legal document and as such can seem a bit daunting. But with the help of a solicitor (which should not cost you very much), it is pretty straightforward.

Whether or not you choose to support IFES Ireland through a gift in your will, we hope you find this short guide helpful.

## Why now?

You may be enjoying great health, indeed we hope you are! But death comes to us all and sometimes it can be sudden and unexpected.

If you die without leaving a will then your possessions will be divided up by an administrator, appointed by the government, in accordance with the law and with no regard for your wishes.

Making a will is good stewardship of your resources as it enables you to provide for your family and loved ones and to give financially to the work of building God's kingdom, whether in your local church or on the other side of the world.



## Why leave a gift to IFES Ireland in my will?

We hope that you will choose to support IFES Ireland through your will because you believe that our work among students is:

**significant** as it helps young people to encounter Jesus at a point when they are making life choices;

**effective** in helping students to follow Jesus in a challenging environment and be witnesses there;

**strategic** as God shapes the lives of future leaders who will shape our society on this island and beyond.

## What will IFES Ireland do with the money?

IFES Ireland inspires and equips students to follow Jesus through nurturing the growth of Christian Unions on university and college campuses. We do this mostly through our campus staff workers who teach, train and mentor student groups and student leaders. We also provide conferences, summer teams, training events, resources and a website. Your money will be used to support students in Christian Unions across Ireland through paying for campus staff workers (our biggest investment) and subsidising the cost of resources for students.

1500 students

27 campuses

1 vision:

students  
transformed  
by encountering Jesus,  
transforming  
their campus, society and world



Giving to IFES Ireland

## What do I need to know?

Before you make your will there are some questions it is helpful to think about.

### What is the value of my possessions?

Before you decide who you wish to benefit from your will, it's worth considering how much there will be to give away. For most home owners their property will be their most valuable asset. Other things to consider are life insurance policies, shares, bank accounts, investments, and belongings such as your car, furniture, jewellery, antiques, etc. If you have a mortgage or any outstanding loans, these should be subtracted from your estimated total. The sum total of all that you have is known as your *estate*, you may well be surprised by its value.

## Inheritance tax

Inheritance tax is payable on your estate if its value exceeds a certain threshold value. This is often reviewed each year, so ensure you get up to date advice. As an indication of the implications for you we are showing you the position as of the tax year 2009-10. If the value of your estate exceeds £325,000 (the 09-10 IHT threshold), 40% of the value above this must be paid in tax. Each of a married couple has this 'zero tax band' and if unused in the whole or part on the first death in a couple, this can be carried forward to the second,

## Who do I want to benefit from my estate?

Most people want to ensure that their families and loved ones are looked after. However, once you see how much there is to give away you may well find you can afford to give to others as well. Those whom you choose to give to through your will are known as *beneficiaries*. There are three ways you specify gifts in your will, and you can use any combination of them.

- Stated amounts of money, e.g. £100 or £25,000. These are called *pecuniary legacies*. Although straightforward they are affected by inflation, we all know £100 isn't worth what it was ten years ago!
- Specific items, e.g. your house or car, jewellery, pictures, or furniture. Their value may be monetary or sentimental. Sometimes it's worth checking if the person (or especially if it is

giving a 'double zero band' on the second death. There are some exceptions such as gifts to a spouse or charity. E.g. if your estate is worth £350,000, and you are single or your spouse has already used their 'zero band', 40% of the £25,000 over the threshold (£10,000) would have to be paid in tax, but if you gave £25,000 to charity, no tax would be payable. Even with falls in value, many properties are still valued above the thresholds so it is worth consulting a solicitor, accountant or financial advisor about inheritance tax planning.

a charity) you have in mind will appreciate the item.

- What's left after the above requirements have been met is called your *Residual Legacy*. This is quite often the most valuable part of your estate and is usually given in terms of a percentage. E.g. you may decide to give 25% of what's left to each of your two children, 10% to each of your four grandchildren and divide the remaining 10% between your church and a charity- so long as the total adds up to 100%!

### **3) Whose help do I need to make a will?**

It is important to ask a solicitor to draw up your will in order for it to be recognised as a legally binding document. This is not expensive and a solicitor should be able to give an accurate quote for the cost before they begin.

You will need to appoint one or more *executors* for your will, these are individuals who will be legally responsible for ensuring the wishes expressed in your will are honoured. It is normal to appoint two people you trust and who are likely to survive you. They may be friends, family members, beneficiaries of the will or a professional such as your solicitor or accountant.

Once your will is drawn up it must be signed by two *witnesses* who are not beneficiaries of the will. It is not legally binding until it is signed.

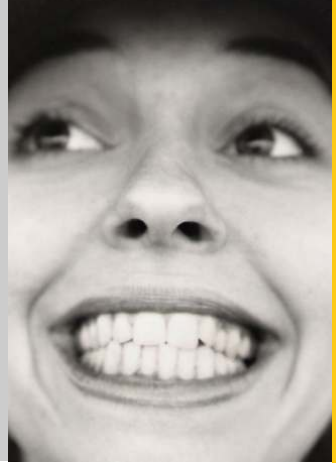
#### **4) When should I change my will?**

It is important to keep your will up to date, especially when your circumstances or those of your loved ones change. The following are some common examples:

- Getting married or divorced (in which case your old will is no longer valid).
- The birth of children or grandchildren.
- The death of your spouse or someone else named in your will.
- A change in your financial circumstances (perhaps through an inheritance) or buying or selling property.
- You decide to support another charity or church.

Small changes can be made by adding a document known as a *codicil* to your will. This must be signed and witnessed in the same way as a will. More significant changes may require a new will. In either case it is advisable to involve a solicitor.

*“The incredible fellowship, love for God and compassion for humankind within the CU have been huge influences in my spiritual journey. The students within it have dealt, and continue to deal, caringly and understandingly with all questions and queries I manage to come up with in relation to the Bible and Christianity in general. They have been an invaluable help in my struggle to become a Christian.”*



## Pledging a gift

You are not obliged to tell us if you have included a gift for IFES Ireland in your will. However it can be helpful to us and we will ensure that any pledges made are kept confidential. If you would like to pledge a gift in your will to IFES Ireland please fill in the form opposite and return it to us.

We hope you have found this guide helpful and that you will take the simple steps necessary to ensure that your resources with which you have been blessed will be used according to your wishes to bless others.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (name) informed IFES Ireland  
on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) of my intention to leave the following  
to them in my will:

- a sum of money, details (optional): \_\_\_\_\_
- an item or investment, details (optional): \_\_\_\_\_
- a portion of my estate, details (optional): \_\_\_\_\_



I \_\_\_\_\_ (name) am informing IFES  
Ireland on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) of my intention to leave the  
following to them in my will:

- a sum of money, details (optional): \_\_\_\_\_
- an item or investment, details (optional): \_\_\_\_\_
- a portion of my estate, details (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach this section and send it to:

**IFES Ireland**, 21 Ormeau Avenue, Belfast, BT2 8HD

**Note:** neither this pledge, nor your record are legally binding,  
they are purely for information. However should you wish to  
make a change, please do let us know. Thank you.

# My Pledge to IFES Ireland



students  
transformed by encountering Jesus,  
transforming their campus, society and world