

The will to save lives at sea

How you can leave a gift in your Will to help volunteer lifeboat crews save lives at sea.



Lifeboats

There wasn't a second to lose.

One Winter's evening the small fishing boat *Kasam's* engine failed. The tide dragged the two men and teenage boy aboard *Kasam* towards the pounding surf of Bideford Bar. They fired a rescue flare.

Appledore's Atlantic 75 lifeboat *Douglas Paley* roared into the gloom at 7.29pm. The crew knew there wasn't a moment to lose. *Kasam* was trapped on the bar, lying sideways on to 3m high waves. In these difficult and dangerous conditions it took all the vigilance and dexterity of the crew to get the three people off the stricken *Kasam*.

On landing, paramedics sped the casualties – grateful to be alive – off to hospital. By morning *Kasam* had disappeared completely, swallowed by the sea. Without a volunteer crew prepared to drop everything to save lives at sea, and a lifeboat fully equipped and ready to put to sea in an instant, the outcome could have been far worse.



Photo: Reproduced courtesy of North Devon Journal

£1,200 could help pay for one year's training for a lifeboat crew member.

£160,000 or more could help pay for an Atlantic 85 inshore lifeboat.

£2.7M could fund a Tamar class all-weather lifeboat.

To be ready to save lives tomorrow, we must prepare today.

The seas around our shores will always be perilous. On average RNLi lifeboat crews rescue 21 people every single day. Our volunteer crews are always ready to answer the call, but this constant state of readiness costs money. It costs more than £378,000 to keep the lifeboat service running for a single day.



The volunteer crews must be trained and able to respond swiftly in a crisis. The lifeboats must be fit to put to sea the instant the shout is raised. All the equipment must be checked and reliable for the most testing challenges. Lives depend on their readiness for action. Without gifts in wills (known as legacies), six out of ten lifeboat rescues would not be possible.

Don't leave anything to chance. Make sure your Will is up to date.

The future is unpredictable. The only way to be sure your wishes are met and your loved ones and the causes you care about are looked after, whatever happens, is to make a Will. It's never too early and it's easy to make changes to your Will to reflect your changing circumstances. New arrivals in the family, weddings, retirement and a host of other reasons make it important to update your Will regularly.

**Please read the following pages for
valuable information about what to
do when making a Will.**

Book time with your solicitor, now.

It's best to act while the thought is fresh in your mind. Making a Will is very straightforward, and this checklist will help you and your solicitor save time:

- Make a list of your major assets to take with you to the solicitor – house, shares, bank and building society accounts, for instance.
- Decide who your executors should be (the people who will make sure your wishes are carried out).



- You'll want to make sure your loved ones are looked after. When that's organised, you may want to leave a proportion of what's left to one or more charities close to your heart, such as the RNLI. This is called a 'residuary bequest'.
- Think about inheritance tax, a gift to charity in your Will can be an effective way to reduce inheritance tax. (See page 7.)
- If you decide to leave a gift to the RNLI, please show your solicitor the preferred wording on page 6.

A few legal terms in plain English.

Beneficiary Any person or organisation that receives a gift in a Will.

Bequest/Legacy A gift in a Will.

Codicil An addition or change to an existing Will.

Estate The total sum of all your possessions, property and money.

Executor/Executrix The person you ask to make sure that the wishes in your Will are carried out.

Inheritance tax The tax levied on your estate. (This includes the market value of your house when you die.)

Residuary bequest A gift of what is left over – or a proportion of it – after all the other specific gifts have been made from an estate.

Pecuniary bequest The gift of a sum of money in a Will.

Specific bequest A gift of a particular named item in a Will.



Preferred wording for solicitors.

Residuary bequests

Subject to the payment of my debts, funeral and



testamentary expenses, I give the whole/____ % of my estate not otherwise disposed of by this my Will to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (A charity registered in England and Wales (209603) and Scotland (SC037736). Charity number CHY 2678

in the Republic of Ireland) of West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset BH15 1HZ for the general purposes of the RNLI and I declare that the receipt of its Treasurer or other proper officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge.

Pecuniary bequest

I give free of tax to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (A charity registered in England and Wales (209603) and Scotland (SC037736). Charity number CHY 2678 in the Republic of Ireland) of West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset BH15 1HZ, the sum of £____ for the general purposes of the RNLI and I declare that the receipt of its Treasurer or other proper officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge.

For wording of Wills in the Republic of Ireland, or for wording for any other type of bequest, please contact Miss Sue Fernley, Income and Legacy Manager, on 01202 663008.

Inheritance tax. Yes, it may apply to you.

Any gift, large or small, helps our volunteer lifeboat crews save lives. But a gift to the RNLI could also help reduce the inheritance tax on your estate.

The Chancellor has set the levels above which inheritance tax (at 40%) will be applied. From 6 April 2009 the threshold for Inheritance Tax rose to £325,000 for individuals. Married couples and members of civil partnerships are able to transfer any unused allowance to a spouse or partner so that they can leave up to £650,000 before death duties are due. Such gifts are deducted from your estate before inheritance tax is calculated. So if these gifts reduce the value of your estate to below the threshold, it should no longer be liable for any inheritance tax. This means many people can make a significant contribution to the RNLI with less of an effect on the value of what they leave to other beneficiaries.

There are other issues which could affect the level of inheritance tax, so you should ask your solicitor about your particular circumstances. If you have any other questions,

please contact Mark Allwood, Legacy Enquiries Manager, on 01202 663032 or rnli.org.uk/legacies.



Photo: Stuart Brown

It will be very helpful if you can let us know the following information, which we will treat in strict confidence for you and your spouse (where applicable)

Title(s) _____ Forename(s) _____

Surname(s) _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Phone number _____

RNLI supporter number (if applicable)

RNLI branch or guild to which you belong (if applicable)

Date of birth 1 _____ / _____ / _____

Date of birth 2 _____ / _____ / _____

Please tick the appropriate boxes

I have already included a legacy to the RNLI in my Will

My gift to the RNLI is/will be:

a share of my estate _____ %

all of my estate

a specific sum of money £ _____

Please complete this card and return it in the private and confidential envelope provided to: Mark Allwood, Legacy Enquiries Manager, RNLI, FREEPOST BH173, West Quay Road, Poole BH15 1XF

Thank you

Please let us know your intentions

To encourage the crews and help us face the future with confidence, it would be very helpful if you could tell the RNLi about any intentions you may have to leave the lifeboat service a legacy. This is not a binding commitment, and anything you tell the RNLi is private and confidential. Thank you.



Lifeboats

A selfless act – a lifetime of thanks

When you remember the lifeboat crews with a gift in your Will, your generous act of kindness will never be forgotten. Inscribed in the RNLI's Book of Remembrance, your name will be on permanent display, for all to see, in our Headquarters' museum.



Lifeboats

For further legacy information please contact Mark Allwood, Legacy Enquiries Manager, RNLI, West Quay Road, Poole, BH15 1HZ Telephone 01202 663032 (the number is Mark Allwood's direct line)

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