

## **USING THE NATIONAL FREE WILLS NETWORK**

### **Frequently asked questions**

#### **What is the National Free Wills Network?**

The National Free Wills Network is a partnership between charities and law firms throughout the UK. By working together, we are able to offer charity supporters the chance to make a simple Will for free.

#### **Who can use the National Free Wills Network?**

This offer is open to Help for Heroes supporters, volunteers and service users.

#### **Is there a Network solicitor near me?**

With over 700 member law firms throughout the United Kingdom, the Network aims to offer service users a participating solicitor within 15 miles of your home, and a selection of solicitors to choose from.

#### **Who pays for my Will?**

As a member of the National Free Wills Network, Help for Heroes will pay a discounted rate for simple individual or mirror Wills written by participating firms for supporters we have referred to the Network.

#### **Can I use my normal solicitor and get them to send you the bill?**

We cannot pay for Wills written by solicitors who are not in the Network.

#### **Why is a charity paying for Wills to be written?**

Like many charities, we rely on gifts in Wills to deliver our life-changing recovery services. Half of all of our work was funded by legacies last year, providing essential support to the Armed Forces community throughout the country. Without legacies we simply couldn't help as many veterans and families as we do, or promise them life-long support.

Many of our friends tell us they'd like to leave a gift but they're put off writing their Will by worries about choosing a solicitor and finding the time and money to see them. By being part of the National Free Wills Network we can help remove those obstacles. And after years of striving together to help veterans and their families; this is a practical way in which we can thank and help our amazing supporters to get organised and provide for their loved ones.

#### **If I use the Network, do I have to leave a gift to Help for Heroes?**

Please rest assured that using the Network does not place you under any obligation to remember Help for Heroes in your Will. As someone who plays an important part in our work and shares our belief that all wounded veterans should get the support they need and deserve, we hope you'll take a moment to consider the lasting difference you could make by remembering our heroes in your Will.

### What is a simple Will?

A simple Will covers most people's needs. If your estate is more complex (e.g. including business matters, trusts or arranging a lasting power of attorney) you will be advised accordingly and may be asked to pay the additional cost.

### How do I apply to use the National Free Wills Network?

If you've downloaded this fact sheet from our website, the next step is to contact us and asked to be referred to the Network. Call Beth in our legacy team on 01725 514965 or email [legacies@helpforheroes.org.uk](mailto:legacies@helpforheroes.org.uk) and we'll be happy to help.

### Next steps

Once you've let us know you'd like to use the service, here's what will happen next.

1. With your permission, we'll forward your details to the Network.
2. The Network will send you a pack explaining how the service works and including the details of participating local solicitors.
3. It is up to you to choose which solicitor to speak to. You must contact them within 90 days of the date of your letter to make an appointment but the meeting itself can be booked for a future date. When booking your appointment, please be sure to mention you're using the National Free Wills Network.
4. Before your appointment, take time to think about what you'd like to achieve through your Will, and gather together important information. Our new Will-writing guide and our Information for Your Adviser form will help you prepare.
5. Speak with your chosen solicitor to explain your circumstances and wishes.
6. Your solicitor will draft your Will according to your instructions and send it to you. You must complete the Confidential Declaration Form and return it to the Network.
7. Help for Heroes will pay the agreed discounted rate for your simple Will.

### Regulations

The National Free Wills Network conforms to regulations of The Law Societies of England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland as well as the Charity Commission and the Institute of Fundraising. All Network solicitors are members of their relevant Law Society.

### Disclaimer

The Network solicitors you're referred to are independent professionals from whom you'll receive impartial advice specific to your circumstances. Help for Heroes cannot give legal advice or recommend a solicitor; and a firm's inclusion in the Network does not imply any knowledge or recommendation of that firm on Help for Heroes' part.