

BE A LIFE CHANGER, LEAVE A GIFT TO SIA IN YOUR WILL



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LIFE AFTER SPINAL CORD INJURY

In the last five years, gifts in Wills have contributed £2 million to rebuilding people's lives after spinal cord injury.

No one ever thinks spinal cord injury (SCI) will happen to them. When it does, it is life changing. But life does go on and it can be a fulfilled life.

For over 40 years, SIA has helped thousands of SCI people to reclaim their lives. We have raised the quality of health and social care, and won changes in the law establishing the rights of SCI people to live fully in society.

Every year 1,000 people sustain spinal cord injury from illness, falls and accidents. We cannot stop this happening but we can keep delivering life-long support to SCI people, families and friends. Gifts in Wills ensure that, every year, SIA will always be here to help.

1974



Spinal Injuries Association (SIA) was founded. It was the first SCI dedicated organisation to put knowledge into the hands of SCI individuals, their families and health professionals.



**A gift in your Will
would be a life changer.**

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Our SCI Nurse Specialists support NHS staff, improving the standard and quality of care for SCI people.

RAISING THE QUALITY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Spinal cord injury left 15 year old Luke paralysed from the neck down and dependent on a ventilator to breathe.

His family was traumatised and the future looked confusing and scary. It didn't help that the nurses caring for him had no experience of looking after someone with an SCI, let alone with such high level needs.

When Carol, our SCI Nurse Specialist, visited Luke, she knew exactly the care needed. She educated the clinical team, especially around his bowel and bladder care, and helped Luke back to independent breathing. His family were reassured that they could manage their future.

Luke's case isn't unusual. 30% of spinal cord injured people are being treated in non-specialist NHS settings leading to unnecessary complications like pressure sores and infections.

1985



SIA was playing a prominent role in campaigns calling for a national network of spinal injury units and the wider recognition of the specialist nature of such treatment and care. Five new spinal centres were nearing completion.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE TO GET THE CARE THEY NEED

With his 24-hour care reduced to just four brief visits a day, Ian's life disappeared overnight. He was 37 years old and tetraplegic.

The freedom to leave the house and to make decisions about his life had gone. He was alone and vulnerable. Ian turned to SIA for support and we helped him appeal the decision to cut his care.

It took nearly a year to get his local Clinical Commissioning Group to agree. Even his emergency hospital admissions with life-threatening autonomic dysreflexia, caused by poor bladder and chest care, struggled to get recognition. But we persevered and Ian won the care he needed.

1995



SIA's Personal Assistance Service had been providing 24 hour respite help for SCI members for 10 years. By 2001, several agencies were providing the specialist care needed and SIA switched its focus to helping people get the care they are entitled to.



**SIA's Advocacy Team helps SCI people
with the health and social care system to
get the care they are entitled to.**

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**More than a thousand people sustain
a spinal cord injury every year.**

DELIVERING SPECIALIST SUPPORT AND ADVICE

Gwenda was paraplegic but lived life to the full. Then, complications in surgery made her C4 complete, a tetraplegic.

Gwenda's expectations for the future were set when her medical team discharged her into a hospice. She believed her life was over.

Just one visit from Gary, SIA's Peer Support Officer, put a big smile on Gwenda's face. He explained that she was entitled to social and healthcare support, and the potential this would have. Since that day, she has moved to a new home, written a book and is about to embark on her first cruise holiday.

Peer support helps people reclaim their everyday lives – be a parent, go to work, take holidays at home and abroad. And when their circumstances change, we're here.

2005



SIA's Peer Support Service had been established in each of the spinal centres for over a decade. The Service now extended its reach to SCI people who needed support in the community.

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF SCI PEOPLE

“I have been an active member of SIA since it started. There is much to thank SIA for in living an SCI life today. For example, the drop kerb, a standard until-70 driving licence, or an NHS wheelchair whilst on holiday in the UK or abroad.

We have always campaigned passionately on issues affecting our rights, and on wider disability issues. We were at the front of two campaigns that led to the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the Community Care (Direct Payments) Act (1996). These gave people with a disability the right to live an independent life, and the means to do so.

But Government policy changes, and this is why every SCI person needs SIA to campaign on their behalf. That’s why I’ve made a gift to SIA in my Will.”

John Borthwick

Founding Member and Legacy Pledger



TODAY



We set up the All-Party Parliamentary Group that now includes 72 MPs and Peers. We are making SIA’s voice heard on specific medical issues and lobbying Government on health and social care policy.



**A gift in your Will, large or small,
will make a real impact for SCI people.**

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MAKING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Family & friends first

Making a Will is one of the most positive things you will ever do. First, you will want to make sure you take care of your family and loved ones, and pass on specific items of value, sentimental or otherwise.

Thank you for thinking about leaving a gift to SIA in your Will

If you decide to include SIA in your Will, your gift will help spinal cord injured people and their families live fulfilled lives after injury. We know this can be a big decision, and we would encourage you to discuss it with your family and loved ones first. Many people find that they fully support their decision.

How to leave a gift in your Will

To ensure all your wishes are carried out exactly as you want, SIA recommends that you seek appropriate professional advice when writing or updating your Will, ideally from a solicitor.

If you want more help to get started, we can help. Simply contact our Supporter Care team, telephone or email supportercare@spinal.co.uk If you already have a Will, you can make a simple change by adding an instruction – called a codicil - to your Will.

THE FUTURE



Spinal cord injured people will have SIA's life changing services generation after generation with the help of a gift in your Will.

Here are the three main types of legacy gift:

1. Residuary Gift %

You can leave a percentage, or all, of what is left of your estate, after all other payments have been made (eg monies owing, tax, administrative expenses and any pecuniary and specific legacies). It will not lose value over time, and if you leave a proportion to us you can still ensure other beneficiaries are cared for.

2. Pecuniary Gift £

You may prefer to leave SIA a fixed amount of money. It is worth noting that the value of this gift could become less than you intended due to the effect of inflation.

3. Specific Gift 🏠

This would be a gift of a specific item – such as personal possessions, land, buildings or shares.



If you do choose to leave a gift in your Will to Spinal Injuries Association, the words you will need to add to your Will or codicil are:

**“I leave _____ to
the Spinal Injuries Association,
SIA House, 2 Trueman Place,
Milton Keynes MK6 2HH
(Registered Charity No 1054097)”**

OUR PROMISE

Back in 1974, we promised to be always here to give the support SCI people need to live a fulfilled life after injury. A legacy gift will help SIA keep that promise.

Our promise to you:

- We will always respect your privacy
- We absolutely recognise that your loved ones will **ALWAYS** come first
- You can tell us that you've left a gift if you want to, as it helps us to know about your future plans, but you don't need to tell us
- We will **ALWAYS** say **THANK YOU** if you tell us you support our work in this way
- We fully understand that personal circumstances change and there may come a time when you might have to amend your Will
- We will use your gift wisely so that it has the greatest impact, and tell your loved ones about your legacy, if they choose

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a small, gold-colored envelope. The hands are positioned in the lower-left foreground, with the fingers slightly curled around the envelope. The person is wearing a gold watch on their left wrist and a silver ring on their left ring finger. In the background, a white board with a blue border displays a list of names in a dark blue, sans-serif font. The names are arranged in a vertical column, and the envelope is held in front of the lower portion of the list. The lighting is soft, and the overall tone is professional and respectful.

Mark Dudley Steer
Patricia Ann Grieve
Sonia Jeanne Hadlow
Anne Patricia Howart
Christine Simpson
Christopher Beckwith
Graham Neale
John Lloyd Ellis
Adrienne Kathleen Furniss-
Filip
Beth
olton

**Every gift in a Will makes a difference
and everyone will be remembered.**

**“KNOWING SIA WILL ALWAYS
BE THERE IS PRICELESS,
IT REALLY IS!”**

Be a life changer, leave a gift to SIA in your Will



Spinal Injuries Association

SIA House, 2 Trueman Place, Milton Keynes MK6 2HH

 **Spinal Injuries Association**  **@Spinalinjuries**

01908 604191

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