University of Canterbury Foundation

Leaving a gift in your Will Bequest Glossary

Glossary

Bequest/legacy	A gift in your Will
Codicil	A "supplement" that makes a change or addition to your Will
Estate	Total sum of your possessions
Executor	A person charged with ensuring that your wishes expressed in your Will are carried out
Intestacy	Dying without having left a Will
Pecuniary legacy	A gift of a sum of money (any amount)
Residual gift/residuary legacy	A gift of what is left of your estate (or part of – it might be as small at 1% or as large as 100% or anywhere in between) after all debts, taxes, costs and other gifts have been allocated.
Specific legacy	A gift of a particular item in your Will