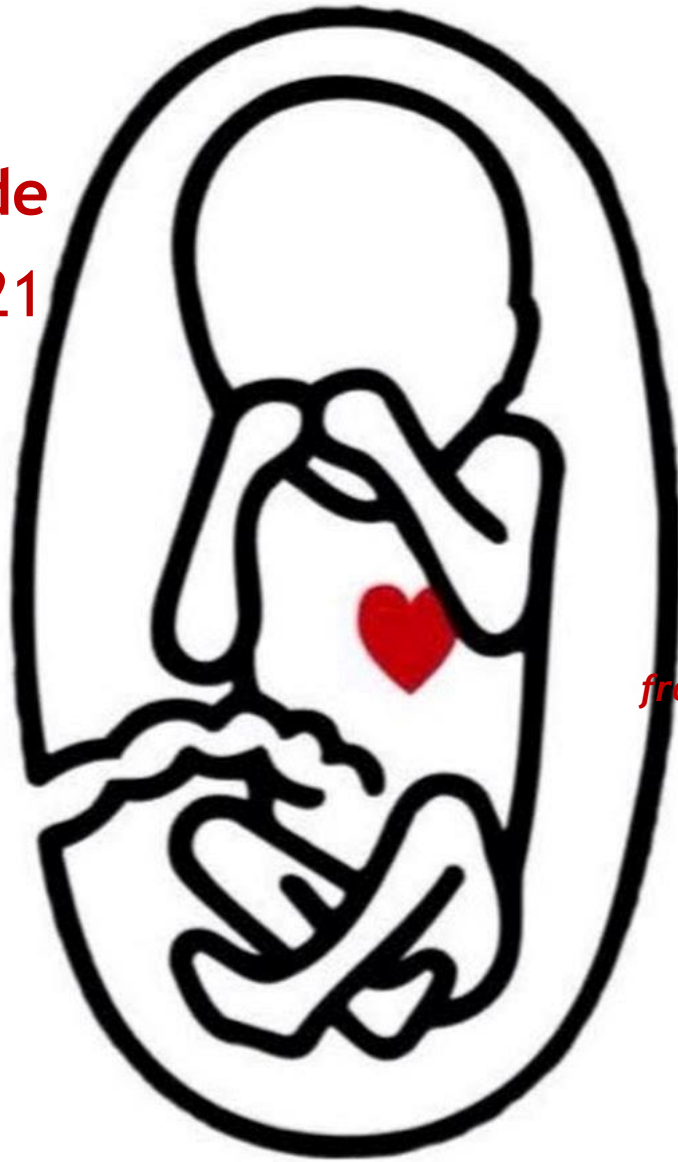

Society for the **Protection** of Unborn Children

Will Guide
2020/2021



*Defending life
from the moment
of conception*

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children:

Unit B, 3 Whitacre Mews, Stannary Street, London, SE11 4AB
Tel: 020 7091 7091
Email: information@spuc.org.uk
Web: www.spuc.org.uk



How will SPUC use my legacy gift for good?

The choice is yours

Leaving a legacy for any charitable organisation represents a significant and thoughtful commitment. It can be a way for an individual to show gratitude for the way in which a charitable organisation may have helped them or a loved one, or it may be given simply because an individual deeply values the work that the organisation does and the values it promotes. Whatever your reason for considering leaving a legacy gift to SPUC, we would like to share with you the way in which your deeply appreciated gift will be used to help the most vulnerable.

Legacies can be gifted to one (or both) of the following two entities:

SPUC Pro-Life

Should you leave a legacy to SPUC Pro-Life, you will be helping to secure the future work of the largest pro-life grassroots organisation, and the first to be founded anywhere in the world, ensuring that we can keep on fighting until we have won the battle against abortion in our country.

Since 1967, we have clearly and boldly affirmed the right to life of unborn children and fought to see this right recognised in law. As attacks on human life have increased, our scope has widened to include the protection of the lives, threatened by euthanasia.

Our approach to promoting a culture of life is multi-faceted, embracing political campaigns, pro-life education, local activism and academic research. SPUC has over 100 branches and 45,000 supporters nationwide.

SPUC Education and Research Trust

The SPUC Education and Research Trust is a registered charity (charity no. 1143342) which supports pro-life educational projects, provides help for the vulnerable and funds pro-life research. The Trust's most important project is the *Abortion Recovery and Care Helpline (ARCH)* – a counselling service which helps women, men and families to heal their lives and relationships after an abortion experience.

Leaving a legacy to the SPUC Education and Research Trust will aid the continuation, and further expansion, of this essential charitable work.

What is a will and why is it important?

What is a will?

A will is a legally sanctioned set of instructions for what is to be done with your money and possessions after your death.



Why wills matter

A will gives you peace of mind because you know your affairs will be in order. However, two thirds of people never make a will. In some cases, the government get their money and possessions. Being married does not guarantee that your spouse will receive anything if you die without making a will.

Keeping your will up to date

People who have made a will should review it from time to time and, particularly, if their circumstances change. If you marry, divorce, have a child, or if your spouse dies, you should change your will.

How wills help SPUC

Gifts made through wills are an essential part of SPUC's annual income. Without them, the society's work would suffer. Such gifts help SPUC plan long-term projects with a higher degree of certainty than would otherwise be the case.

How SPUC uses income from wills

As will be further explored in this guide, SPUC funds many projects at home and abroad which promote every human being's most fundamental right - the right to life. Although founded to defend unborn children, SPUC's remit has necessarily expanded to include defending the elderly, the sick, and the disabled by counteracting moves through Parliament and the courts to legalise euthanasia. SPUC also campaigns against embryo experimentation.

How your legacy could save lives

£750



£750...could fund essential training for one person to speak out confidently and professionally in the media on pro-life issues.

£1,000

£1,000...could provide a financial grant to a pregnant university student, to support them in the pursuit of their academic and personal goals, through *The Alma Mater Fund*.



£5,000



£5,000...could help fund a **SPUC youth conference**, forming and inspiring the next generation of pro-life campaigners.

£10,000

£10,000... could cover the cost of **printing life-saving materials for an entire campaign**, ensuring dedicated pro-life volunteers can hold politicians to account.



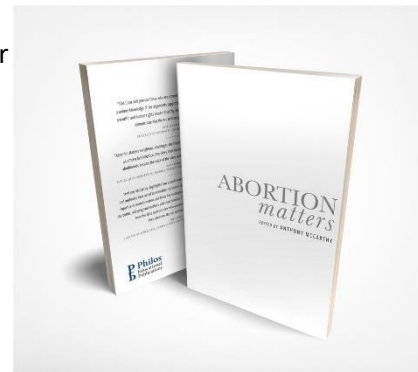
£15,000

£15,000...could help the SPUC Education and Research Trust to **run the Abortion Recovery Care and Helpline (ARCH)** ensuring support is available for women and men struggling with an abortion experience – or considering abortion.



£20,000

£20,000...could fund **cutting-edge pro-life publications**, commissioned by SPUC from top academics in their field. SPUC has recently published, "Abortion Matters", edited by Dr Anthony McCarthy, which aims to inform a whole new audience about the abortion debate.



£25,000

£25,000...could pay for an **additional regional development officer** committed to building up grassroots support through SPUC's national branch network.



£50,000...could defend life by helping to fund a **major legal challenge** in the courts.

£50,000



A little more on what SPUC does and how your legacy could help our efforts

1. Campaigns

SPUC is at the forefront of the campaign to end – once and for all – abortion in the UK, whilst simultaneously resisting attempts to legalise assisted suicide and euthanasia.

As the leading pro-life grassroots organisation in the UK, we recognise the importance of engaging and equipping our supporters at the local level, so that they are sufficiently informed to spread the pro-life message.

SPUC's long-established methods of letter writing, door-to-door leafleting, petitions and acts of public witness are efficient and effective ways of facilitating SPUC campaigns at a local level – and are made possible by donations, such as those left in legacies.

Current SPUC campaigns include: **We Care About Women – SPUC's campaign to oppose abortion decriminalisation**; **Say NO to Buffer Zones**; **Abortion Pills: Not Safe or Simple**; **Safe at School**; and **Northern Ireland: Defend Unborn Children**.



2. Lobbying

Lobbying politicians is central to the Society's work – we do this by petitioning MP's to oppose anti-life legislation and enact the changes that can bring an end to abortion in the UK. The idea of lobbying MP's is consistent with SPUC's belief in the power of grassroots action, whereby men and women up and down the country have the opportunity to have their say – through communication with their MP – on issues relating to the Society's work.

This approach works so effectively because SPUC ensures that its members are fully briefed before contacting, or meeting their local MP.

SPUC helps people have the confidence to engage with their local MP.



SPUC staff and cross-party MPs present thousands of postcards, signed by SPUC supporters, to the Prime Minister, calling on him not to impose abortion on Northern Ireland, on 11 September 2019.

3. Education

Education is the starting point for changing the hearts and minds of people in the UK on abortion. The work that SPUC does – in educating its members, young people, and the wider community – is complementary to the work of campaigning and lobbying, and consistent with the notion of *building a culture of life*.

Pro-life education for our members – We have to educate ourselves about the beauty and wonder of life before birth. We must be fully informed of the facts about the abortion industry and the impact on women. Then we must educate others.

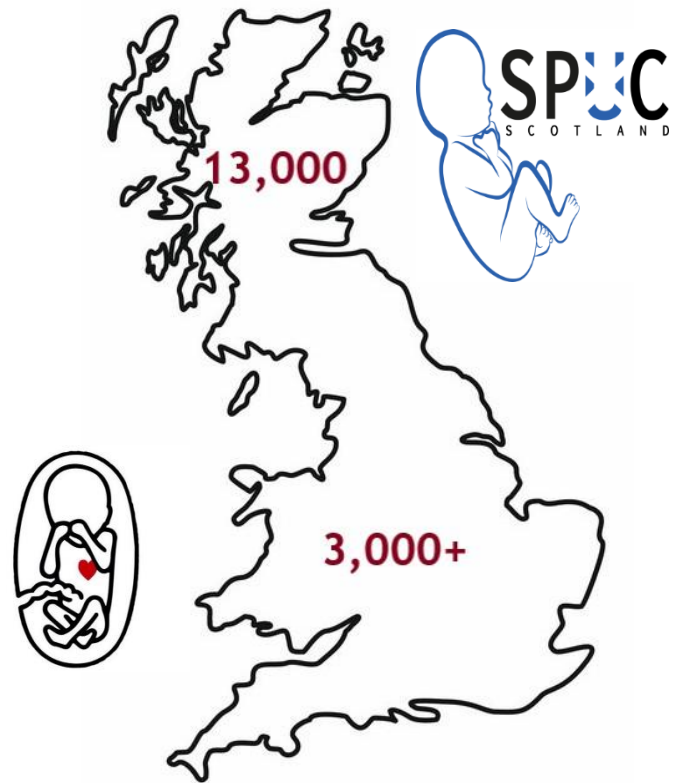
Pro-life education in schools – We have an extensive outreach to schools, teaching young people about life before birth and putting the case against abortion.

Pro-life education in the community – SPUC's committed members and branches spread the pro-life message to ordinary people by door-to-door leafleting. Leaflets can change minds and save lives. SPUC street stalls and local meetings are further ways in which SPUC supporters reach out to their local community. Public acts of witness such as SPUC's annual Pro-Life Chains are important ways to raise awareness in the community. The *Project Truth* roadshow sees young volunteers in Scotland witnessing to the sanctity of life and engaging in the community.



SPUC is currently able to promote the pro-life ethic to a significant number of secondary age students...

- In the academic year of 2018/2019, over 13,000 secondary school students in Scotland, attended presentations by SPUC's trained speakers – the *Life Issues* presentation and workshops, that these students benefitted from attending, cover a range of life-related topics.
- In the same time period, over 3,000 secondary school students in England and Wales were able to hear from SPUC's trained speakers, covering a spectrum of life issues, all in an interactive setting.



SPUC's approach to youth education has long been proactive, recognising the significance of the youth voice on issues relating to the sanctity of human life, and the power that young people have in a society that would conveniently like to view abortion as a young vs old issue.

The *Life Issues* presentation, developed by SPUC's own Emmet Dooley, Director of Education and Outreach, is helping change the hearts and minds of students all over Scotland. With its mission statement, aiming to '*Educate, Inspire, Empower*', the presentation equips students with the tools to defend their pro-life beliefs and promote a culture of life.

The presentation takes a fully integrated approach to pro-life education, observing the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death, covering a range of topics, from abortion to euthanasia, and from overpopulation to embryo care. Perhaps the ultimate success of the programme of youth education in Scotland's schools is that it involves more than just a one-off presentation – the team aim to maintain contact with as

many students as possible over the course of their higher education, with many schools inviting SPUC back for further presentations. Whether students hear these talks and have their pro-life beliefs reaffirmed, are so compelled by the arguments that they become pro-life, or simply remain ambivalent, the fundamental quality of these school presentations is that, in a society increasingly hostile to dissenting opinions on abortion, young people across the UK are being given the opportunity to hear a solid pro-life defence and then make their own minds up about what they believe.

Student Responses to the *Life Matters* presentation:

“I don’t think abortion is a good thing anymore as all people should get a chance to live their life”

Male, 17

“I used to be pro-choice but after seeing the video clip I may change my mind”

Female, 17

“The facts about euthanasia were clear and you were not forced to agree”

Female, 17

...and was on course to reach even more students in 2019/2020...

Before the COVID-19 pandemic put a halt to the plans of people everywhere in the UK, including SPUC, the team of SPUC speakers in Scotland were on course to beat the previous year’s figure of 13,000 students, and set a new record in the academic year of 2019/2020, with already 10,000 students having heard the *Life Issues* presentation by March 2020!

...and, with your help, is capable of reaching so many more in the future.

4. Branches

The special nature of SPUC shines through in its grassroots work, as a grassroots organisation, working through a network of local branches throughout the UK.

We will win the battle to end abortion in Britain when we have won the hearts and minds of the people in our own villages, towns and cities. This is how SPUC branches can make a real impact.

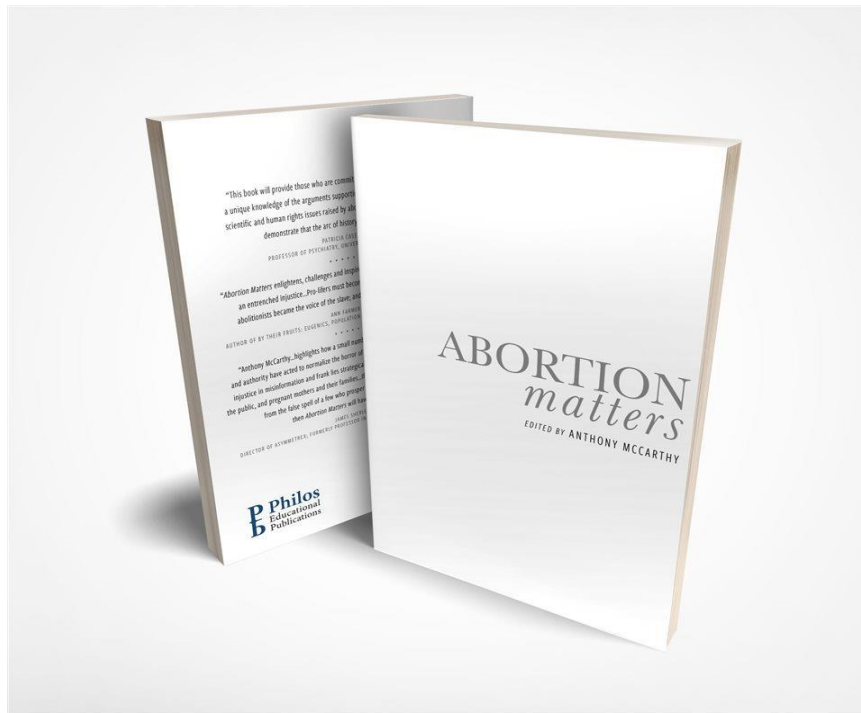
5. Information & Research

SPUC has a long tradition of publishing up to date, fully referenced information on a wide range of pro-life issues. This gives our supporters the information they need to write to their MP and engage with family, friends and colleagues on pro-life issues.

SPUC pays careful attention to science, medicine and other areas of study related to the mission of the Society. And, we make sure not to lose sight of the broader ethical and philosophical issues.

Here at SPUC, we believe that both science and ethics are on our side in the battle to save the unborn and the vulnerable.

Our new research institute, the Bios Centre, was founded in 2019 and is headed by Dr Anthony McCarthy. The Bios Centre works on first-class research on a wide range of issues from reproductive ethics to end-of-life care.



SPUC Youth Conference



SPUC recognises the value of equipping young people with the tools to effectively promote pro-life truths, and does so in a number of ways. At the heart of youth engagement is SPUC's annual Youth Conference, which sees, year-on-year, increasing numbers of young people in attendance, who benefit from hearing top pro-life speakers from around the world. The



An account from a SPUC Youth Conference attendee - Julia Rynkiewicz:

"Before I attended the SPUC Youth Conference in 2019, I knew I was pro-life in principle but I had no strong foundation for my beliefs. The talks and workshops highlighted what an atrocity abortion is and provided me with a wealth of knowledge to justify the pro-life position to others. I left the conference feeling compelled to do something to contribute to the fight against abortion in this country, so I set up a pro-life society at my university. I do not think I would have felt so empowered to start Nottingham Students for Life if I had not attended the conference".



Julia Rynkiewicz speaking at the 2020 SPUC Youth Conference.

Universities

University pro-life societies have been growing in number around the UK. This is certainly cause for celebration, however, this increase has unsettled certain university student unions, who have sought to deny full integration into their body. Our response has been to embolden pro-life societies up and down the country, by providing them with expert speakers, pro-life leaflets and literature, and equipment such as foetal model sets. We give them the confidence to keep going in a hostile environment.



Taking care of the legal side of things

How to make a will

1. Work out the approximate value of your money, property and possessions (known as your estate)
2. Decide which family members, friends and good causes you want to benefit from your will. You may want to leave items of sentimental value to particular friends
3. Specify who should get what. Money can be described in terms of an amount or percentage of the total value you leave.
4. Choose at least one person (known as an executor) who can ensure that your wishes are respected after your death. Executors may or may not be

beneficiaries of your will. Most people appoint two executors but you can appoint as many as four. One of your executors should be a generation younger than you so that he or she is likely to survive you. A solicitor can act as an executor but may charge a fee.

5. It is advisable to get professional advice when making a will. A professional can put your wishes in legal language that leaves no room for doubt. Solicitors can advise on wills. If you do not have a solicitor, you can ask friends or family to recommend one. Alternatively, you can look on line at the Law Society's website which lists all solicitors in private practice:

<http://solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk/>

6. SPUC is pleased to offer a FREE will writing service which won't cost you anything, and will give you the assurance that your legacy is in safe hands. Furthermore, whilst it would be greatly appreciated, you do not need to leave a legacy to SPUC in your will in order to qualify for the service.

7. Your will should be kept somewhere safe, for example at your solicitor's office or your bank, and the executors need to know where it is too. You can also pay for a copy to be kept at the probate registry. You should keep a copy yourself too so that you can review it.

Taking care of the legal side of things

Avoiding Inheritance Tax on the gifts in your will

If the net value of your estate when you die is more than a certain amount (£325,000* at the time of writing), Inheritance Tax could be payable on gifts to organisations which are not charities.

In order to ensure we have as much freedom as possible to pursue our political campaigns SPUC has chosen not to be a registered charity. However, the SPUC Education and Research Trust, which funds post-abortion counselling service

and other important pro-life activities, is a charity and a gift to the SPUC Trust would be exempt from Inheritance Tax.

Whether you decide to leave a legacy to SPUC or to the SPUC Education and Research Trust (registered Charity Number 1143342), your gift will benefit the pro-life cause.

*In addition to the standard £325,000 tax threshold, an additional “main residence” tax relief came into effect with the Spring 2017 Budget. In 2020/21, an extra £175,000 in tax relief may apply should you leave your home to a direct descendant (i.e. family member such as child or grandchild) and if your estate is worth less than £2m. Also, married couples may be able to combine their individual tax thresholds and effectively double Inheritance Tax relief on their estate should one of the spouses die, to as much as £1,000,000 in 2020/21. Ask your solicitor for advice on this matter.

Frequently asked questions

But my husband/wife will automatically get everything, won't s/he?

It is a commonly held belief that your spouse or partner will automatically inherit everything when you die. In fact, this is only the case if you are married and your estate is under a certain value and if you have no children or other relatives who survive you. A widow or widower could be forced to sell the family home because other relatives are entitled to a share of it.

It is important that your will is updated to take account of changes to your marital situation. If you are separated but not divorced, your husband or wife will remain entitled to any gift under your will.

What will happen to my children?

If you have children under 18 years old, you may wish to appoint guardians. If there is no one with legal parental responsibility, care of your children could be arranged by the local authority while longer term arrangements are made.

Can I leave an item for a friend?

Yes. Your will is an opportunity to give to your friends as well as your relations.

What about my favourite cause?

You may also want to remember those causes which you have supported during your lifetime and mean most to you. However, your wishes will only be respected if you state them clearly in your will.

What is the best way to make a legacy to SPUC?

A good way is to leave a share of what is left of your estate after your other wishes have been carried out (known as residuary legacy). The advantage of this kind of legacy is that the gift you leave to SPUC, or the SPUC Education and Research Trust, keeps in line with inflation and holds its value. If you prefer to leave a cash sum, you can ask it to be index-linked to stop inflation eroding its value

The *Legacy for Life Club*

At SPUC, we recognise that leaving a bequest to us in your will represents an incredibly compassionate act, and we feel honoured when one of our supporters leaves a lasting legacy in this way. The leaving of a legacy shows that you feel as we do about SPUC, our principles, and all that we stand for.

SPUC has created the *Legacy for Life* club because we believe that leaving a legacy deserves recognition in one's lifetime. This club is our way of saying thank you to you, and of honouring you for making a pledge to remember unborn babies in your will.

Membership of the club is extended to those who have signalled their intention to leave a legacy gift to SPUC, by completing the pledge form overleaf.

What does membership of the *Legacy for Life* club mean?

Supporters of SPUC who indicate their intention to leave a legacy will receive the following:

- **A membership gift upon joining the club** – we will send you a complimentary copy of SPUC’s publication, *Abortion Matters*, by Dr Anthony McCarthy, Director of Research and Education at SPUC. This provides clear, convincing answers to fundamental questions relating to abortion. We will also send you a Tiny Feet pin badge
- **Regular updates on SPUC’s work and campaign activities** – this will see club members receiving special mailings that will keep you engaged and informed, aware at every step of what SPUC is doing
- **An annual report** – every year we will send you SPUC’s audited accounts and a full report on SPUC’s campaigns during the preceding year. This will enable you to assess first-hand the effectiveness of campaigns and our efficiency as organisation.

We recognise that indicating one’s commitment to leave a legacy is a significant undertaking. If you have any further questions regarding the legacy club, or simply want to have a chat, please do not hesitate to contact William Currie on **020 7820 3135**, or at williamcurrie@spuc.org.uk.

A word from SPUC Chief Executive, John Smeaton



“The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children owes a significant debt of gratitude to all supporters who make financial contributions to our work. A special thanks must be extended in particular to those who leave legacies for SPUC in their Will. It is a selfless act to include unborn children in one’s Will, alongside family and friends.”

“As long as there are babies at risk of abortion, SPUC will be here to defend them. The abortion lobby in the UK is wealthy and strong, but we are strong in love. We do not possess the extensive financial resources of the abortion industry, but we have something much more powerful, the generosity and self-sacrifice of our supporters.

“At SPUC, we promote the culture of life, and seek to bring about real change, through our campaigns, our lobbying, and our youth programmes – all of which are the living legacy of SPUC supporters whose legacy gifts are still working for unborn children.

“We hope and work for a future where abortion is considered unthinkable, where unborn babies are protected by law, and where, instead of being pointed in the direction of an abortion clinic, struggling mothers are helped and loved. Defending life on the frontline is challenging, but despite the odds, good always prevails over evil in the end. Together we will defeat abortion. And that is why I ask you today to consider leaving a legacy for life, by including SPUC or the SPUC Education and Research Trust in your Will”.

John Smeaton

Make a Pledge

I WOULD LIKE TO PLEDGE A GIFT IN MY WILL TO THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN (SPUC) OR THE SPUC EDUCATION AND RESEARCH TRUST



If you have decided to leave a gift in your will to SPUC, then first of all – *thank you*. It is of great help to us if we know this. We would be very grateful if you could complete and return this form.

Completing this form helps us plan for the future and make decisions with legacy considerations in mind. **A legacy pledge is an expression of interest and carries with it absolutely no obligation.**

Title (Mr/ Mrs/ Miss/ Ms/ Rev/ Dr/ Other)

Name

Surname

Home address

There are three types of gifts that you can leave to SPUC in your Will:

- **Pecuniary gift:** a fixed amount of money (e.g. £1,000)
- **Residuary gift:** a share of your estate after other gifts and expenses have been paid – part or all of the residue of your estate (e.g. 10% of my estate)
- **Specific gift:** a particular item (e.g. property)

PLEASE TICK ALL BOXES THAT APPLY:

I pledge a gift in my will to the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC)

I pledge a gift in my will to the SPUC Education and Research Trust

for the amount of £ OR % of my estate OR
specific item(s).

I've amended my will using the codicil form. I give the sum of £ OR the following specific item(s)

I'd like to hear more about the free wills service.

Please contact me by email phone