

# Hague Lambert Solicitors



## Information Sheet

### WHY MAKE A WILL?

Although no-one wishes to consider their own mortality, death comes to us all and sometimes when we least expect it. It is therefore important to consider what will happen beyond your death to both your assets and any minor children.

#### THE RULES OF INTESTACY

The Rules of Intestacy have recently been updated for the first time since their enactment in 1925!

Now if you die without leaving a Will, your spouse will receive £450,000 of your estate if you have no children and £200,000 where you do have children. The balance is then shared between your spouse and wider family. It may still come as a surprise to learn that your spouse will not automatically receive the entirety of your estate.

However, despite these recent changes if you wish your spouse to receive your entire estate you must make a Will to ensure that this happens.

#### UNMARRIED PARTNERS

Equally the Rules of Intestacy make no provision for unmarried partners. Without a Will your unmarried partner could be left with nothing. If this occurs your partner's

only possible way of securing any financial security would be to claim under the Inheritance Act on the basis that they are a dependant who hasn't been provided for upon the death of their partner. However, this can be costly and time consuming with no guarantee of success.

#### REVIEW FREQUENTLY

Even once you have made a Will these must be reviewed periodically and in particular when circumstances change, for example, marriage, divorce, the birth of children or even moving house. We therefore recommend that Wills are reviewed every five years.

#### PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

When dealing with such important issues it is crucial to seek professional advice where you can be assured that all aspects of your financial and personal circumstances will be taken into account when drawing up a Will that suits your own unique requirements.

If you wish to make a Will please contact Amy Hayes at Hague Lambert Solicitors, 131 King Street, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6EJ, tel: 01565 652411, email [ah@hague-lambert.co.uk](mailto:ah@hague-lambert.co.uk) (May2011)