



LAW SOCIETY
OF SOUTH AFRICA



MEDIA ADVISORY

30 September 2011: For immediate release

ATTORNEYS TO DRAFT WILLS FOR FREE DURING NATIONAL WILLS WEEK: 17 to 21 OCTOBER 2011

Are you making arrangements for your year-end holiday? Did you recently buy a house or flat? Did you get married this year or move in with your companion? Then you should ensure that your affairs are in order by having a will drafted by an attorney – for free.

From 17 to 21 October 2011 attorneys participating in the National Wills Week will write basic wills for members of the public free of charge. More than 1 000 attorneys' firms throughout South Africa are participating in the National Wills Week project.

The aim of National Wills Week is to highlight the importance of having a valid will in place to ensure that the wishes of testators are taken into account when they die, and that their assets are disposed of according with their wishes.

Also, this initiative is to encourage members of the public who would not normally make use of the services of an attorney, or who may hesitate to approach an attorney for various reasons, to consult an attorney.

Why approach an attorney to draft your will?

An attorney has the necessary knowledge and expertise to ensure that your will is legally valid and complies with your wishes. An attorney can also advise you on any problem which may arise with regard to your will. Often a will is not valid because the person who drafts it does not have the necessary legal knowledge to ensure that the requirements of the law are met.

What could happen to your estate if you die without a valid will?

If you die without leaving a valid will, your assets will be distributed according to the provisions of the Intestate Succession Act. The provisions of this Act are generally fair and ensure that your possessions are transferred to your spouse and children.

But, the following problems may arise if you die without leaving a will:

- Your assets may not be left to the person of your choice.
- It can take a long time to have an executor appointed. The executor who is appointed may be somebody you may not have chosen yourself.
- There could be extra and unnecessary costs.
- There could be unhappiness and conflict among members of your family because there are no clear instructions on how to distribute your assets.

During Wills Week from 17 to 21 October 2011, attorneys participating in the National Wills Week project will draft a new, basic will for members of the public for free. Attorneys will not amend or redraft existing wills.

Attorneys participating in the National Wills Week project will display posters with their contact details so that members of the public can make appointments with participating attorneys in their area.

Where to find an attorney to write your will:

The contact details of attorneys participating in the National Wills Week project can be accessed on the LSSA website at www.LSSA.org.za. Alternatively members of the public can contact the law society in their region for the contact details of a participating attorney near them:

Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North-West – Law Society of the Northern Provinces
(012) 338 5800

Cape provinces – Cape Law Society (021) 443 6700

Free State – Law Society of the Free State (051) 447 3237

KwaZulu-Natal – KwaZulu-Natal Law Society (033) 345 1304

Law Society of South Africa – (012) 366 8800

The National Wills Week is an initiative of the Law Society of South Africa and its six constituent members: the Black Lawyers Association, the Cape Law Society, the KwaZulu-Natal Law Society, the Law Society of the Free State, the Law Society of the Northern Provinces and the National Association of Democratic Lawyers, representing South Africa's 20 000 attorneys.

ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

by Barbara Whittle

Communication Manager, Law Society of South Africa

Tel: Barbara Whittle (012) 366 8800 or 083 380 1307

E-mail: barbara@LSSA.org.za Website: www.LSSA.org.za