

## Press Release

### **...are you one of the 51% leaving your families at risk because of an out of date Will?**

Thursday 03 July 2008

Recent research from The Law Society revealed that a staggering 58% of 24 – 34 year olds in the West Midlands do not have an up-to-date Will. This is worrying news for the families of people who've changed their circumstances recently, such as purchasing or selling a house, as it means that they may not receive what is entitled to them.

The research also revealed that 22% of respondents aged over 65\* did not know if they had an up-to-date Will, which leaves their families in danger of receiving nothing after their death.

Driving the need to change a Will are circumstances such as marriage, the birth of a child; divorce and change of address. But of course these are busy times for the people involved and may result in the Will being overlooked. However, ignoring such an important document could have a long-lasting effect, so it's crucial to seek advice as soon as possible. This will ensure that families and spouses are fully protected and their wishes adhered to.

Brethertons' Probate Partner, Elizabeth Young, said:

*"The Law Society news doesn't surprise me, but it may surprise some people to know that, depending on circumstances, it can often take as little as a couple of hours time to draw up a Will, in return you will have protected your family/spouse in the long term and saved them further unnecessary grief after you die - a small price to pay."*

*There are tax-efficient ways of disbursing your estate, which you may not be aware of; a good solicitor can ensure that you have looked at all the options. They can also guide you through the process of setting up trusts, which can sometimes be complicated."*

Drawing up a professionally prepared Will can cost as little as £140, and even less if it's an amendment in the form of a Codicil. For more information contact Emma Blackman or Carly McPhillips at Brethertons LLP on (01295) 661440 / (01788) 559510.

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#### Notes to editors

1. Brethertons LLP undertakes all kinds of legal work including company commercial matters, property, conveyancing, debt recovery, litigation, family, wills, trusts, probate and agriculture.
2. Brethertons LLP has around 160 staff and operates from Banbury and Rugby, across five office sites.
3. The firm's expanding client base includes corporate and private clients from London to Birmingham, Oxford and across the South East.
4. For more information please visit the firm's website at: [www.brethertons.co.uk](http://www.brethertons.co.uk) or contact Justine Rennie on (01295) 661411 or [justinerennie@brethertons.co.uk](mailto:justinerennie@brethertons.co.uk)