



Pictured: Jonathan Holsgrove

Where there's a will?

Disputes about wills and inheritance are on the increase. Whether this is due to rises in property values and personal wealth in recent years or an increase in second marriage families, Sheffield city centre solicitors Watson Esam are now dealing with many arguments where people are challenging a will, there is no will left (intestacy) or a will is left but is out of date.

A will can only be challenged in set circumstances. These include:

- **Incapacity**

For a will to be valid the person making it must be able to know what he is doing when preparing and signing the will.

- **Undue Influence / Fraud**

To be valid a will must be made by a person voluntarily and without pressure or deceit.

- **Invalid will**

For a will to be valid it must be in writing, signed and properly witnessed. A beneficiary under a will cannot be a valid witness

- **Estoppel**

Where a person can show that the deceased had promised property to them and they have relied on that promise.

In some cases people die without making plans to provide for everyone that they should. In these cases an application to court can be made to make sure they are provided for. These claims can be made by spouses, civil partners, children, people treated as family by the deceased or co-habitees.

For further advice and assistance contact Jonathan Holsgrove at Watson Esam on 0114 275 3350 or email jonathan.holsgrove@watson-esam.co.uk. Our extensive experience and non confrontational approach to these sensitive issues promises the most practical and speedy solution to your problems.

Press contact:

Patricia Bint, (Jay Bhayani in her absence)
Watson Esam Solicitors, 18 Paradise Square, Sheffield S1 1TY
Tel: 0114 2753350 Fax: 0114 2768277
e-mail: patricia.bint@watson-esam.co.uk
www.watson-esam.co.uk

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