

# The Society of Will Writers

## Single Parent Month

**2-Day Introductory Course**  
18th-19th February  
18th-19th March

**Advanced Instruction Course**  
29th January, Lincoln

**Practical Will Drafting**  
12th March

**LPA Course**  
26th February, Lincoln

**Sure Will Course**  
25th February



[Book your place now](#)



**Got a story you would like to share?**

Our aim is to provide relevant information to you, our Members, if you would like to contribute to our newsletter or share your comments please [contact us](#).



As February starts we take the opportunity to look back at Single Parent Month which ran throughout January.

Single Parent Month in 2008 was the first time the Society had run the campaign, inviting members to offer Wills for a fixed price of £35 for single parents. Although it was advertised late and press releases for members use weren't made available we did generate a response. Local press throughout the country showed an interest and publicity on our own website generated a few enquiries to head office.

This year has proved to be much more successful. Press releases were circulated well in advance of the event and made available for member's own use. Single parent organisations, such as 'Gingerbread' which has a 9000 membership of single parents, sent out mail shots containing details of the promotion and the event was advertised on many websites accessed by single parents.

Member participation was reasonably low, with only 66 members signing up to agree to write Wills in accordance with the promotion price. Throughout the month we received 51 enquiries through head office which were distributed to 26 of the participating members. Enquiries did not show any particular geographical pattern but we received a lot in Hertfordshire and Essex.

We have also heard reports through the forum and on e-mail that many members who have participated (even if they didn't receive leads from the Society themselves) have obtained business through distributing the press release to their own local newspapers.

Of the leads supplied about 85% converted into business with many leading on to additional business for which full price was charged such as LPA's or referrals to family

and friends.

We have received positive feedback from people who have enquired about the speed and efficiency shown by participating members in contacting them to make an appointment to take their instructions.

**Direct Debits**

If you have not yet switched from standing order to Direct Debit to make your membership subscription payments please complete the attached forms.

**When you have set up the Direct Debit don't forget to cancel your standing order as we are not able to do this for you!**

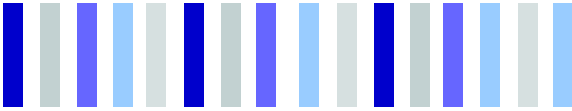
### More Bizarre Wills

Mr Zink was a lawyer in Iowa who died in 1930. In his Will he left \$75,000 in trust for 75 years at the end of which time he hoped the fund would have swelled to \$3 million, enough to found the Zink Womanless Library. The words No Women Admitted were to mark each entrance. No books, works of art, or decorations by women were to be permitted in or about the premises. "My intense hatred of women," he explained in the will, "is not of recent origin or development nor based upon any personal differences I ever had with them but is the result of my experiences with women, observations of them, and study of all literatures and philosophical works." His family successfully challenged the Will.



Quote of the Week: "One mustn't criticise other people on grounds where he can't stand perpendicular himself" - Mark Twain





**Contact Us:**  
**Eagle House**  
**Exchange Road**  
**Lincoln**  
**LN6 3JZ**

Tel: 01522 68 78 88  
 Fax: 01522 69 46 66  
 E-mail: [info@willwriters.com](mailto:info@willwriters.com)

Further information is  
 available at:  
[www.willwriters.com](http://www.willwriters.com)

## February 2008

S	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1	2	3	4	5	6	7



## Events Calendar

- 4th February - North Wilts & Glocs. Region Meeting
- 5th February - Herts. Meeting - **Postponed**
- 9th February - Sussex Region Meeting
- 18th-19th Feb - 2 Day Introductory Course
- 25th February - Drafting for Success—Sure Will Course
- 26th February - LPA Course. Lincoln
- 27th February - Shropshire & Staffs Region Meeting

**Don't be left in the cold, ensure you are up to date with all the latest legal developments**

## Rise in Inheritance Disputes

**A city law firm has reported three-fold rises in High Court disputes over Wills. Wedlake Bell put this down to the break-up of the nuclear family, longer life spans and larger estates.**



The figures quoted in their recent report into disputes show that the number of disagreements reaching the High Court in 2006 were just 83 compared to 228 last year. The number of actual disputes is also likely to be much higher as many are resolved before reaching that stage.

Claims by unmarried partners have gone up as the tendency for couples to cohabit without marrying also increases. Claims from disgruntled family members have also increased. This is prominent where a couple are on their second or even third marriage and children from the previous marriage are not included in the Will, the deceased relying on their spouse providing for previous children.

A greater public awareness of mental capacity because of the Act in 2005 has also led to challenges of Wills based on the testators lack of capacity at the time of making the Will.

Fay Copeland of Wedlake Bell also states

that the increase of gifts to charity has also led to claims by family members. She says "many older people feel disconnected to their children nowadays, as families are increasingly dispersed across the UK and worldwide, and in many cases have no communication at all. We have seen an increase in the number of people who decide to leave their sizeable estates to charitable institutions as they feel closer to these than their own children...disgruntled children then challenge their parent's wills, often on the grounds of mental incapacity".

Keeping detailed file notes about your client's wishes and reasoning when taking instructions can assist should any claim be brought in the future.

### True Cost of British Weather?

It has been reported that the snow on Monday has cost the UK £1.2 billion with 20% of the UK workforce, 6.4 million people, not making it through the snow and into the office to work

To unsubscribe from this newsletter please click [HERE](#)

