



# The Society of Will Writers

## The Rise of 'Vulture Syndrome'



This week the Telegraph reported that the aptly name 'vulture syndrome' is to be blamed for the increase in

disputes by families over a deceased's Will.

As study has been carried out by leading London law firm Seddons on 3000 adults which reveals that one in ten of those surveyed have been, or are currently involved in, a dispute following a death in the last six months.

Marvin Simons, the head of Dispute Resolutions at Seddons blames the rise in disputes on the current economic climate. He states that "with people being so much more concerned about money and property values being so depressed [it] is only likely to result in an escalation of these problems".

The study also revealed that:

- Most people fall out over unequal distribution of money, personal possessions and property.
- It also emerged three in ten Britons fear they will be squeezed out by family members following a relative's death.
- A quarter admitted they were worried they would end up with nothing and one in five are concerned they won't be treated fairly.
- Around 17 per cent said they'd been promised something by a relative but never received it and 37 per cent didn't trust people in their close or extended family.
- The survey also found 15 per cent would remain in touch with an elderly relative just to be included in their inheritance.
- One in five are waiting for their parents or grandparents inheritance to become financially secure.

- Worryingly, 70 per cent sought NO legal advice on how best to share assets when creating a Will.
- It also emerged 13 per cent were dissuaded from challenging a Will by their family and one in 10 have mounted a legal challenge to a friend's or relative's Will.

The survey supports our own experience and official statistics. In 2007 229,000 grants of representation were taken out. According to these statistics that means that there were over 50,000 disputes in that year alone. In many of these cases there has been an intestacy and problems could have been avoided by people taking appropriate advice and writing a valid Will.

Seddons suggest that as the majority of people surveyed (71%) were uncomfortable with the so called "Vulture Syndrome" this may explain why some individuals fail to seek legal advice when such disputes arise.

### Professional Indemnity Insurance - Renewals

If you are currently taking advantage of the Society's professional indemnity insurance you may have received, or will shortly, your renewal notice.

The underwriters have agreed to hold prices from last year so if your turnover hasn't changed significantly your premiums will remain the same.

If you are not currently using the Society's insurance and would like more information please contact the membership department.

**SWEPP Course**  
27th-29th April

**2-Day  
Introductory  
Course**  
18th-19th March  
22nd-23rd April  
20th-21st May

**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](#).



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## March 2009

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
29	30	31				



**Have you received your funeral plan pack? If not, request one now!**

## Events Calendar

11th March - Surrey Region Meeting  
 13th March - Essex Region Meeting

**18th March—Yorkshire Region Meeting**  
 With Stephen Metcalf from Vantis Tax

18th-19th March - 2 Day Introductory Course

## Society Launches SWEPP Course

The Society of Will Writers and Estate Planning Practitioners course launches in April and promises to be the most advanced and provide the highest standard for Will Writers today.



The Course has been constructed by lecturers who are STEP qualified, who lecture on the main legal circuit and train student solicitors within CLT and leading tax specialists as well as specialist lawyers.

The course of three days duration will equip the successful graduate with the knowledge and expertise to advise clients on all aspects of Estate Planning.

The course builds on the individual's knowledge and experience and it is essential that the students have studied in a structured environment in the past. The ideal course will be the Society's two day induction course or similar so that they are equipped with both the basics and time served qualifications.

The course is of three day residential duration and the students will be expected to undertake evening assignments on the first two days, the results of which will be discussed the following day and the individual results will go toward their overall marks following the invigilated two hour examination on the final day.

Accommodation for the Sunday, Monday and Tuesday nights and all meals are included in the cost.

For a prospectus please contact the College via [jan@willwriters.com](mailto:jan@willwriters.com)

**Dates for 2009: 27th-29th April**

**Venue: The Bentley Hotel, Lincoln**

**Cost: £895**

Included in the cost is 3 night's accommodation (Sun—Tues), breakfast, buffet lunch and evening meals along with full use of the health club facilities.

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