

September 28, 2008

DON'T LET THE CREDIT CRUNCH LEAVE YOUR FAMILY WITHOUT FINANCIAL MEANS

Leading Willwriting organisation, The Institute of Professional Willwriters (IPW), is urging consumers to not let the credit crunch deter them from making a Will.

The 550-member strong organisation, that celebrated gaining the first stage of Office of Fair Trading approval for its Code of Conduct earlier this year, is stressing that leaving no Will in place could merely compound the issue of financial hardship for many families.

Dying intestate – meaning without a Will in layman's terms – leads to the law stepping in to decide which relatives or friends should inherit the estate of the person who has passed away. This is done to a strict family tree based formula, which can often go against the wishes of the deceased.

In such instances, those who most need support during their later years, or who require a home in the case of children left without parents, may not necessarily catered for in a financially sound or ideal manner. A partner of the deceased may not inherit what they thought was their share of the estate and estranged family members may inherit undeservedly.

Making a Will is the only way to state wishes on a legal basis and ensure you provide for loved ones. Whatever the present financial pressures, the thought that creating a huge problem for loved ones, simply because a relatively small amount of money was not spent on a Will, should spur anyone on to find a way of affording what is actually a financial necessity, in most cases.

Whilst the IPW is urging consumers not to put Willwriting to one side, it is urging them to shop around – with huge caution. It says its members adhere to a financial system of charging that is affordable and realistic, despite the fact that choosing an IPW member to write a Will is the only sure guarantee of acquiring the services of someone who is professionally trained and qualified to perform this service.

It warns, on the other hand, that there are many rogue Willwriters in the market, who have no qualifications and who are simply employed by Will factories, or others wishing to churn out what they say are sound, legal documents, purely to make a fast buck.

The best advice is to look for the two ticks logo of the IPW when deciding where to shop for a Will, avoid the high charges of solicitors who may not even be qualified in Willwriting and check that the Willwriter is who they say they are.

You can check if a Willwriter is a member of the Institute of Professional Willwriters by calling 08456 442042. If they are, they will definitely have qualifications, will have continuously upgraded their knowledge through on-going training and will have professional indemnity protection in place to pay out if a problem ever arose.

Do not be fooled by other organisations claiming to have such measures in place. It is only the IPW that insists that members actually adhere to membership laws. Its Code of Practice has also passed the first stage of approval under the Office of Fair Trading's Consumer Codes Approval Scheme, which means that the code promises to provide consumers with a high level of customer service.

For more details about the IPW visit www.ipw.org.uk

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Press calls: Jane Hunt, Catapult PR, 01253 595558 – jane@catapultpr.co.uk