

REVISE YOUR WILL IF IT'S BEEN A FAIRYTALE OF NEW YORK CHRISTMAS!

If Christmas and New Year have left your marriage on the rocks and it's been more Fairytale of New York than Silent Night, you need to consider your inheritance wishes alongside your quickie divorce, says the Institute of Professional Willwriters (IPW).

The week commencing January 5, 2009 is likely to see a surge in enquiries about divorce, if the trend of other years holds true. In 2008, the number one downstream site visited on January 8 was www.quickiedivorce.com attracting three times the internet traffic it attracted on December 25, with 0.0012 percent of UK internet traffic.*

Last year, some legal practices took up to three times more enquiries about divorce than previously and a survey for insidedivorce.com found that up to one in five couples seeks divorce advice after Christmas.

However, getting a quickie divorce like Madonna and Guy Ritchie, splitting assets and deciding on visiting rights, if children are involved, is not all that needs to be done. Anyone who has drawn up a Will also needs to revise it fast!

IPW Chairman, Paul Sharpe, says: "Wills are the type of document you draw up and then forget about, sticking them in a drawer or cupboard. Psychologically, many people pat themselves on the back for having had the good sense to get one written, but they then forget to revise it in the light of changing circumstances and relationships. It really is a case of out of sight, out of mind."

Divorce is a fundamental change in circumstances that a Will should take into account. Many people think that divorce cancels their Will – it does not. If you have made a Will leaving assets to your spouse and their family, you need to change that, if you no longer wish them to benefit.

Similarly, if you don't have a Will, and there is a delay in getting a divorce, you should get a Will drawn up as, in the eyes of the law, your spouse would legally inherit at least a portion of your estate.

Paul Sharpe says: "Fairytale of New York has just been voted one of the country's favourite Christmas songs for a reason and that reason is that many couples empathise with its tales of rows, squabbles and mud-slinging over Christmas.

"Anyone who finds that their fairytale marriage is heading to the divorce courts needs to consider the inheritance situation that would exist if they were to suddenly pass away. This also involves stating wishes relating to the guardianship of children, if children are involved."

Other advice from the IPW is don't get a quickie Will, if you are wanting a quickie divorce. Many untrained and totally unqualified Willwriters operate in the sector and solicitors, may not necessarily have been trained in Willwriting especially those specialising in divorce.

To find an expert who has qualifications, has professional indemnity insurance and works to a Code of Practice contact the IPW on 08456 442042, or visit www.ipw.org.uk

The IPW was the first organisation in its sector to successfully complete the first stage of the OFT's Consumer Codes Approval Scheme (CCAS), earlier this year. It hopes to take its Code of Practice through to second stage approval in the next few months. ENDS

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Notes to Editors

Sources:

*www.webpronews.com/topnews/2008/01/09/traffic-to-divorce-sites-up-after-Christmas (accessed 28/11/08)

** Huddersfield Daily Examiner on http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_6784/is_ai_n28479753 (accessed 28/11/08)