



RD/mb

3 May 2012

25 St Johns Road,
WATFORD, WD17 1PZ

Tel: (01923) 232728
Fax: (01923) 250582

www.secadventist.org.uk

Dear Friend,

RE: Making a Will

Christian Greetings!

I am writing to you in my capacity as Stewardship & Trust Services Director for the South England Conference to bring to your attention a free service that is offered to you to assist you in making a Will.

According to unbiased.co.uk, the financial advisers' website, 30 million people in the UK do not have a Will. By making a Will you can decide what happens to your property and possessions after your death. Although you do not have to make a Will by law, it is the best way to make sure your estate is passed on to your family and friends exactly as you would wish. If you die without a Will your assets may be distributed according to law rather than your wishes.

In England and Wales, if you are married with children, you might assume that all of your assets would go to your spouse. However, if your estate is worth more than £250,000, your partner will only get the first £250,000. They will get a life interest in half of the remaining estate, which means they can't get rid of it or spend it, but they are entitled to the interest. The remainder will go to the children. If your assets are worth less than £250,000, your children will get nothing.

If you have separated but not divorced, your ex-partner will inherit the first £250,000 of your estate. If you are childless and single, various family members could take varying shares of your estate. If no one claims it, the Government will take the lot.

As well as making life easier for your dependents, making a Will can help reduce the tax payable on your estate. Preparing a Will is an act of good Stewardship. A Will enables you to extend management of your God-given resources beyond your lifetime. In a sense your Will is your witness!

There are some issues you should consider in making your Will: Do everything you can to make sure that your wishes are not contested. Make sure you do not ask any of the beneficiaries of your Will to help draft it. Older people may ask grown-up children to help them write a Will, but this means other potential beneficiaries could challenge the Will. Make sure your Will is properly signed and witnessed by two people who are not beneficiaries.

You will need to decide who your executors are. These are the people who will administer your will. You can pay for a bank or solicitor to do this, or a friend can offer to do it for free. If you have young children, you will need to appoint guardians to look after them if you were to die.

You should be mindful of inheritance tax, which is 40 per cent. Anyone who dies with total assets of more than £325,000 could leave their family with a tax liability. But if you leave your assets to your spouse, no tax is payable. If you want to avoid tax and leave money to your children, you should seek legal advice about setting up a discretionary trust.

If you have not yet made a Will why not do it now and have peace of mind for the future. I will be happy to send one of our Trust Services Agents to visit you in the comfort of your own home and assist you in this process. Please email me at rdelisser@secadventist.org.uk to make your Will today!

Yours truly,

Dr. Richard de Lisser
Stewardship & Trust Services Director