



## Write your own Will

Mr & Mrs Cobweb thought it would be a great idea to make a will, but they didn't want to go to the expense of using a Solicitor, neither did they really want to discuss their business with a complete stranger!!

Mrs Cobweb saw a form in the Post Office "*Write Your Own Will*" ! "Marvellous" she thought "that's just what we want" and rushed home with two – one for her and one for him!

The form came with advice but, of course, Mr & Mrs Cobweb were not sure of the relevant laws, nor did they fully understand how it should be correctly executed.

Nevertheless, they knew it was very important to make a will and they knew exactly how they wanted to leave their money and possessions. They didn't want *that Government* to end up with even more of their hard-earned cash than they had already taken!

Mrs Cobweb's will was easy – she was leaving all her money and possessions split equally between her two children, Frankie & Bennie. She wrote her will accordingly and, needing two witnesses, she asked "that Jean from next door" and got Frankie to sign it on his way out to the pub! (She knew that her witnesses should both be over the age of 18!)

Tragically, some months later Mrs Cobweb was knocked over by the number 9 bus and killed outright!

The family discovered Mrs Cobweb's handwritten will in the kitchen drawer but were horrified to be told that Frankie's bequest was invalid because a beneficiary cannot also be a witness to a will!

Poor Frankie, there was nothing he could do but appeal to his brother's better nature ..... or make a claim against the estate, which would be both costly and lengthy.

Relations became strained between Frankie & Bennie, who never spoke to each other again ..... Mrs Cobweb would have turned in her grave!!

**The moral of the story is ..... don't risk getting it wrong – employ a professional to make sure your wishes are carried out to the letter.**



## Home Made Wills

Mr Cobweb suffered with asbestosis from having worked in a contaminated environment for many years and knew that, ultimately, the disease would kill him!

Knowing it was important to make a will, he wrote out his own on a form he got at the Post Office. It was very straightforward, he kept all of his money in two bank accounts – one with Lloyds and one with HSBC. He simply stated that the money in those two accounts should be split three ways between his partner (non-married) and two of his three children. Job done! He excluded his third child following a dreadful family row some years previously which had damaged their relationship irreparably. His partner had no money of her own at all and was totally financially reliant upon Mr Cobweb.

In the meantime, he believed he was entitled to compensation and began a legal claim against his former employer for damages. He was successful and was awarded damages of £30,000. Instead of putting the money into one of his bank accounts, he decided he would buy premium bonds with it – “you never know your luck”, he thought, “it might win the million!”.

Sadly Mr Cobweb died from his illness the following year.

After the funeral, the family read their Father’s will, which mentioned the money he had deposited with Lloyds and Co-op but, of course, made no mention of the premium bonds.

Having forgotten to add the £30,000 to his will, this money is treated as a partial intestacy, and, under the rules of intestacy, it goes to Mr G’s immediate relatives. The result of this is that it is split equally between his three children – including the child whom Mr G was so keen to exclude from his original will. Furthermore, his partner gets no share of the £30,000.

**The moral of this story is – seek professional advice – using an expert to make your will ensures it will be correctly worded to include all assets, not just specific ones held at the time of writing.**