

INVITATION TO A FREE CONSULTATION EVENT ON THE LAW OF WILLS

What is this about?

The Law Commission recently published a consultation paper, *Making a Will*. Reform of the law of wills was suggested by leading representative legal bodies and by a wide range of practising lawyers specialising in wills work.

The law in England and Wales that governs wills is, in large part, a product of the 19th century: the main statute is the Wills Act 1837, and the law that specifies when a person has testamentary capacity is set out in the case of *Banks v Goodfellow* from 1870. The law of wills needs to be modernised to take account of the changes in society, technology and medical understanding that have taken place since the Victorian era.

The central issues considered in the consultation paper are:

- testamentary capacity;
- formality rules;
- protecting vulnerable testators (undue influence, and knowledge and approval); and
- electronic wills.

We also cover other topics such as statutory wills, interpretation and rectification, ademption, revocation, mutual wills, donationes mortis causa, and whether children should be permitted to make wills.

Your invitation

You are invited to a free Law Commission public consultation event, co-hosted by STEP and ACTAPS. The event will be on 13 September 2017 at STEP, 7th floor, Artillery House (South), 11-19 Artillery Row, London, SW1P 1RT. Please arrive at 5pm for 5:30pm. Light refreshments will be available on arrival. The event will last for one and a half hours.

Professor Nick Hopkins, Law Commissioner for Property, Family and Trust Law, and Spencer Clarke, the lawyer leading the wills project, will give a presentation, following which there will be the opportunity for attendees to contribute their own experiences and views on the provisional proposals made and questions asked in the consultation paper.

The Law Commission also hopes to encourage written feedback to the questions posed in the consultation paper, which is available, with a response form, on the Law Commission site at www.lawcom.gov.uk/wills.

Places are limited, so if you wish to attend, please email Damien Bruneau (damien.bruneau@lawcommission.gsi.gov.uk) no later than 6 September 2017.