

# BURLEY & GEACH

## *Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney*

Burley & Geach have a very experienced team dealing with Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney which includes Partners Stephen Bather and Robert Tozzi, solicitor Christina Grinham and Legal Executives, Wendy Nye and Alison Clarke.

Our aim is to provide our Clients with the highest quality service at a realistic cost which represents the true time we need to spend on the matter. We operate from 4 offices in Hampshire and Surrey with a staff of over 40. We have invested in technology so that all our legal staff are contactable by email, and if necessary, can contact the relevant authorities electronically.

The practice covers all areas of the law with specialist lawyers available, where appropriate, to advise on related issues that can arise when making a will or arranging Lasting Powers of Attorney, including personal taxation, Inheritance Tax Planning and the administration of Estates.

### *Making a Will*

A Will ensures that it is you who decides what will happen to your assets on your death. It will dispose of everything you own and the future of your family will in part be dependant upon it. Inadequate or unfair provision for family members, causing lasting grievances, can be avoided.

You can select your executors, the persons who will administer your affairs after your death. The persons appointed by your Will ensure that any debts and taxes due are paid, realise your assets to the extent necessary, and distribute them to the beneficiaries you have chosen. Executors may also act as trustees so that when the administration of your estate is finished, they will look after funds held on continuing trusts, perhaps for your children.

If you do leave money in trust, you can ensure that your trustees will have all the powers which they will need to administer the trust effectively.

You can appoint guardians for your children.

You can arrange things so as to minimise death duties (inheritance tax) which will be payable out of your estate.

Often when someone dies, their family spends time looking for a Will without success. By making a Will, and ensuring your executors know where it is, a period of uncertainty at a difficult time is avoided.

### *Lasting Powers of Attorney*

A Will deals with what will happen after you die. If during your lifetime you are unable to manage you affairs – because of either physical or mental incapacity – then problems will arise. By signing a Power of Attorney you can appoint someone of your choice to act as your attorney. So if the worst happens, he or she will be able to deal with your investments and affairs in your place.

**Where incapacity arises and a Power of Attorney has not been signed, it is expensive, and involves the person appointed in regular referrals to the Court for directions upon what action he or she might take.**

**A Power of Attorney can also be useful if you are away from home for long periods. The person appointed by you has the power to deal with any emergencies that may arise. However, if you prefer, you can ensure that the document is not used unless you become ill or incapacitated.**