

The Butler Bulletin

Butler Wills and Estates

11/2/2015

[Edition 1, Volume 2]

Criminology Corner



At our office we recently completed the Alzheimer's Friendly Business Education provided by the Home Instead Senior Care network. Given Newfoundland and Labrador has the oldest population in Canada, this seems like something everyone should know. Knowing what the signs of Alzheimers are means you can help if you come across someone in need, prevent someone from being taken advantage of, and be able to offer assistance to your neighbors. Not everyone has a support system, and being available to help each other is something we can all do.

So what are some things you should be on the lookout for?

1. *Piled up mail* – The neighbor who starts letting their mail build up may be feeling overwhelmed. This can lead to financial troubles as well as problems like having utilities turned off.

THE OPEN HOUSE WAS A SUCCESS!

We would like to extend a thank you to everyone who was able to make it to our open house! Throughout the course of the evening we had the opportunity to meet some of our neighbors, and share with our guests just what it is that we do. We look forward to becoming an active part of this community.



2. *Changes in appearance* –

This is one of the most obvious signs. Any changes such as sudden lack of hygiene, no longer shaving, or wearing the same clothing every day are all signs that this senior may be having trouble doing the laundry, or are afraid of slipping and falling in the bathroom.

3. *Losing important items* –

Finding items such as walkers or canes outside that belong to your neighbor may be an indication that they are suffering from dementia. Other signs include returning from walks later than usual and difficulty locating familiar places.

UPCOMING SEMINARS

November 5 – Estate Planning for Seniors

This seminar lasts for one hour, and is intended for groups of seniors, or those who work in seniors' resource centres. It focuses on issues such as mental capacity, undue influence, disputes among adult children, and minimizing taxation. Lynne also gives tips on what a spouse should do to finalize their deceased spouse's estate, as the vast majority of attendees have not taken simple steps that will save stress, money, and delays for their families.

1:00 PM, 60 minutes, \$20.00 per person

November 12 – Executor in an Hour

This presentation is packed with information for executors, beneficiaries, and anyone who works with executors. It covers the executor's role, personal liability of executors, who an executor can and should communicate with, who may see the will, executor's insurance, dealing with personal and household items, understanding the different types of beneficiaries, dealing with estate debts, and more.

7:00 PM, 60 minutes, \$20.00 per person

November 19 - Basics of Estate Planning

This 90-minute seminar discusses wills, Enduring Powers of Attorney and Health Care Directives. It talks about what those documents are for, why you need them, and how to avoid problems such as family disputes, lawsuits, and excessive taxation. It touches on the principal residence, capital gains tax, mental incapacity, challenging a will, and many other topics. It is intended for any general audience that is interested in doing their own planning, or encouraging their parents to get on with planning. Family members often attend together.

1:00 PM, 90 minutes, \$30.00 per person

To register for any seminar, please call us at 221 5511 or email chelsea@butlerwillsandestates.com

Did You Know?

More than half of Canadians do not have a will.

In 2012, a survey completed by the Lawyer's Professional Indemnity Co. found that 56% of Canadian adults do not have a signed will, and 71% do not have a Power of Attorney.

Book News

Now available is Lynne's next book, *The Best of Estate Law Canada*.

This book compiles 80 the most-read posts on Lynne's blog, www.estatelawcanada.blogspot.ca. Some have more than 200 000 views.

In addition, Lynne has added commentary and updates to the posts so you get an inside look at the answers and the most up-to-date information.

Visit www.lulu.com to order your copy!

Lynne is currently working on the second edition of *The Beneficiary's Answer Book*. The first edition answered 175 of the most frequently asked questions by the beneficiaries of estates on every topic from probate to tax to contesting a will. Now, the second edition will answer many more questions. If you would like to suggest a question to be included in the book, please email your ideas along with your name to

chelsea@butlerwillsandes.tates.com. If we choose your question for the book we will let you know, and three names will be drawn to win a free copy!

Would you like to have Lynne as a guest speaker?

Whether it is for a social club, class/course, or simply your friends and family, we offer private seminars.

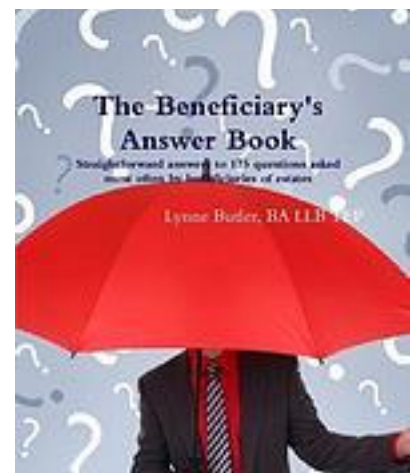
For Groups:

We can host small groups up to 10 people in our office at 14 Forbes Street, or we can come to you! Either choose from our existing seminar topics, or we will customize a presentation for your group.

For Events:

If you are hosting an event and would like Lynne to speak on a topic related to Wills and Estates, let us know!

The pricing for private seminars varies, so please contact us for a quote.



What Are the Building Blocks of Estate Planning?

When people are asked about estate planning, one of the most common responses is, “Don’t you have to be rich for that?” The answer is *no, you don’t*. In a nutshell, estate planning is an outline for what you would like to have happen with your property (and other assets, no matter how big or small they are) once you pass away. So who should use estate planning? Ideally, everybody. More realistically, estate planning is good for anybody who has a spouse, children or grandchildren, or owns property.

There are three basic parts to estate planning: a Will, an Enduring Power of Attorney, and an Advance Healthcare Directive. Each of these components is outlined below. For a more detailed and comprehensive explanation of what estate planning is, try our *Get Started Kit – Estate Planning*. It contains information about what estate planning is and what other documents can be included, along with worksheets and other helpful resources.

A Will

A strong Will is the first part of an estate plan. This is the document that outlines what will happen with your property and assets, as well as how your estate will be distributed.

A key part of having a Will is making sure that it works with all of your other estate planning documents, such as life insurance policies and jointly owned property. An experienced estate lawyer can make sure that all of your documents work together.

Sometimes people have a Will but it has not been updated in a long time. Any time a big life event happens, the contents of your Will can be affected. For example, if you made your Will before you had children, got divorced, or experienced a significant change in your financial situation, your Will won’t reflect your current position in life.

An Enduring Power of Attorney

This is a document that gives the person of your choice the legal power to act on your behalf. This can include topics such as money, your property, and your business. Since there are so many different areas that person will have control over, it is crucial to choose someone who is suited for the job, and not just the first person who comes to mind. There are some obvious characteristics you should look for, such as honest and trustworthy. However, you should also consider if the person will be able to handle the responsibility, lives close enough to be able to help, and has the time to fulfill all the duties.

Advance Healthcare Directive

When you create this document you are naming someone to make decisions for you regarding health care and your personal life. Usually it contains what you would like to have happen in a situation where the person might have to “pull the plug”.

One of the biggest benefits of preparing this document is that your loved ones know exactly what your wishes are. This decreases the likelihood that they will argue when the time comes. In addition to planning for end of life, it also describes what your care will be if you are unable to live by yourself.

Please feel free to share this newsletter with others.

If you have any questions, comments, would like to suggest a topic, or no longer wish to receive this newsletter

please email us at chelsea@butlerwillsandestates.com