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Law Society of SA encourages the public to ensure they have valid wills drawn up

STAFF REPORTER

LAWYERS around the country will open their doors to the public to have wills drafted for free during National Wills Week.

The Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) initiated Wills Week (September 11-15) to ensure that members of the public have their wills drafted by practising attorneys who have the necessary knowledge and expertise to ensure that the will is valid by complying with all the legal requirements in the Wills Act.

"If you are a parent, a breadwinner, a homeowner and generally want to ensure that your affairs are in order, it is important that you have a valid will drafted by a professional.

"A valid will allows you to state your last wishes, who should inherit your assets and property, to appoint an executor of your choice for your

estate and a guardian for your minor children," LSSA said.

"By ensuring that you have a valid will, you as the testator can protect the interests of your loved ones and ensure that there is no delay in settling your estate after your death, and not add undue hardships for your loved ones. It also ensures that your executor will act according to your wishes as set out in your will."

During National Wills Week, attorneys participating in the initiative will display posters with their contact details so that members of the public can make appointments with attorneys in their area.

The contact details and addresses of all participating attorneys can also be accessed on the LSSA website.

Legal Aid SA also invited members of the public to visit their local and satellite offices.

Civil Legal Practitioner from the

Legal Aid SA Cape Town office, Carmen Isaacs, said people must avoid procrastinating and using excuses or superstitions such as "I have enough time", or "I have no children so I have nobody to leave anything for".

Isaacs said any asset, ranging from work tools, furniture, clothing collection, small savings and even jewellery can be included as assets in a will.

"Everyone should be the final decider of how and to who your remaining assets should be distributed. Do not let the law be the final decider," Isaacs said.

For a will to be drafted, the attorney needs to be provided with the person's ID document, a list of what they own including specific personal items that you wish to bequeath to specific people, and a list of beneficiaries and their ID numbers.

For more information, visit www.lssa.org.za.

