

# COLLINS & MAY } LAW

NEWSLETTER

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If you would like any of our previous newsletters or any of the our free booklets on Wills, Family Trusts, Relationship Property of Business Law please email

## Effect of Marriage or Civil Union on Your Will

By Camille Bell

Have you tied the knot recently or entered into a Civil Union? Did you make your last will before you were married or entered into a Civil Union? Your new will may not be valid.



had not been updated to be made in contemplation of the marriage, the will was not valid.

This meant that Nancy had no will and Julian would not receive what Nancy had intended for him to have.

### TROUBLE IN WELLYWOOD

Nancy was a model designer for a prominent special effects workshop in Wellington. In her spare time Nancy also created models at home and kept them to give them family members as gifts. Nancy didn't realise, this but one day the models created by her were to become valuable because of the success of the models she designed for a block buster Hollywood movie produced in Wellywood.

Nancy had a nephew called Julian who loved visiting Nancy and watching her creating her models at home. As Nancy didn't have any children of her own she was very close to Julian and decided that she would leave all the models that she had created to Julian in her will.

Nancy went to a lawyer and had a will drawn up with a gift to her nephew

Julian of all the models she owned.

Nancy didn't update her will again but was married 6 years later.

Nancy and her husband went on their honeymoon to a tropical island. On the first day of their honeymoon Nancy was involved in a terrible accident when she was swimming involving a jet ski, and she sadly passed away.

### THE AFTERMATH

Nancy had always told Julian that he would inherit all the models she had created and kept and, although deeply saddened, he wanted to get those models in his possession as he did not trust Nancy's husband who was bad with money and might sell them for profit.

The family went to Nancy's lawyer, who Nancy had not told she was getting married, and asked to see her will. After discovering that her will

### LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

This unfortunate situation would not have happened if Nancy had gone to her lawyer and informed her lawyer that she was intending to get married. Nancy could have updated her will which would show clearly that the will was made in contemplation of her marriage.

If you have a will and are planning to get married soon or enter into a Civil Union, it is important that your will is updated so it is made in contemplation of marriage. Alternatively as soon as possible after you have married or entered a Civil Union have your will updated so it reflects your wishes and is valid.

If you need any further information please give us a call or pop in to see us and we can give you an information booklet on wills.