



By Paul Whitmarsh

paulw@collinsmay.co.nz
DD: 576 1409

Lloyd Collins

lloyd@collinsmay.co.nz
DD: 576 1403

Paul May

paulm@collinsmay.co.nz
DD: 576 1400

Eugene Collins

eugene@collinsmay.co.nz
DD: 576 1407

Nicola Goss

nicola@collinsmay.co.nz
DD: 576 1404

Davina Rowan

davina@collinsmay.co.nz
DD: 576 1411

Amy Haste

amy@collinsmay.co.nz
DD: 576 1405

Michael Moohan

michael@collinsmay.co.nz
DD: 576 1417

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 us or visit our website at www.collinsmay.co.nz

UPDATING YOUR WILL

A question we often get asked is: "When should I update my Will?"

Here is some general advice that may be helpful for people pondering updating their Will or entering into their first Will.

Firstly, if you do not have a Will, it is our strong advice that you execute one as soon as possible, as it will make the administration of your estate much easier for the people left to tidy up your affairs, as well as allowing you to clearly state the intention of how you would like your estate divided upon your death.

You can also provide specific directions as to any funeral arrangements you would like undertaken.

If you already have a Will prepared, but your circumstances have changed—i.e. you have become married or entered into a de facto relationship, or a civil union, or you have become separated, it is always prudent to update your Will to record your change of circumstances.

It may be that your Will is many years old and does not reflect your current relationship, or omits important people from your Will altogether.

In the event that any of the people included in your Will, as Executors, Beneficiaries, or Guardians have passed away, it would be a good idea to update the Will so as to include people who can carry out your wishes.

Also, if you have not made provision for your children, but you now have children, or even grandchildren, then

updating your Will to include these new beneficiaries is always something that you should turn your mind to.

Changing / amending a Will is a relatively simple process, however many people overlook it as something they could put off until tomorrow. Often tomorrow never comes and before you know it, it is too late to make changes and your loved ones are left to sort everything else out. This is when family arguments can occur which is not ideal during this stressful time.

We literally hold thousands of Wills for people all over New Zealand, and internationally and many of these Wills are out of date and need changes to be made to them.

Whilst we do our best to contact clients and advise them of the need to update their Wills, we would ask all clients currently holding Wills with us to review their personal affairs and contact us if it is time to make some amendments.

At the same time, we encourage all people who currently do not hold a Will with us to contact us in order to obtain our helpful booklet on the making of a Will, as well as our comprehensive Will Drafting Check List to be completed and returned to us in order to have your Will drafted up by our solicitors.

You can also obtain a copy of these booklets from our website: www.collinsmay.co.nz or email our office at mail@collinsmay.co.nz.

- **The next newsletter covers the topic of 'When is a Contract Formed?' - by Eugene Collins**