



Greetings,

It is with great pleasure that we are launching our first quarterly newsletter.

The aim is to stay in touch, to provide useful information and updates as well as to encourage thought, comment and feedback.

It is not however a substitute for legal advice and any enquiries generated should be directed to my staff and myself.

With over 35 years experience, my team and I are known for our passion, commitment and personal service with cost effective results.

We trust that you will feel confident to communicate with us whenever the need arises and whatever the circumstances.

Our door is never closed.

I trust by the time you receive this your year has begun well. Easter is upon us as we convey to you our best wishes and thoughts for the year ahead.

Yours Sincerely,

Alan McMurran
Principal
AM Legal Solutions

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Our Locations

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Where to with Wills?



One of the few things we should all do during our lifetime is make a Will. The intention of course is to bind the person we appoint (our Trustee or Executor) to carry out our wishes. As best as possible, we want those wishes to be “successful”. We also want to make things easier for surviving relatives and beneficiaries.

Many Wills today are challenged. They are often challenged because the Wills do not make either any provision for the person who makes the challenge, whether a disgruntled relative, spouse or child, or for any person who has been dependent in some way for lifestyle and support on the resources of the deceased person.

Wills do not necessarily require great complexity. Often simple is best. The points to remember when thinking about your Will, in simple terms are as follows.

- 1: Prepare firstly a simple balance sheet of your assets and liabilities, wherever they may be.
- 2: Consider who might be the best person or persons to carry out your wishes in a responsible and professional manner.
- 3: If you were going to appoint more than one Trustee, are they going to co-operate with each other?
- 4: Does the appointed Trustee have the intellectual and physical capacity to do what is necessary? Importantly, are they also willing to take on the role which can be challenging and exhausting?
- 5: Do you have any children, and if from “blended families” are they all to share equally? If not, why not, and how will you express that?
- 6: Do you have any disabled relatives or persons who are dependent upon you and have been for some time? How do you propose to provide for them?
- 7: What instructions would you like to give to your Trustee as to how they are to distribute individual items such as personal jewellery or heirlooms which you might intend to share equally as to value between beneficiaries? You can nominate particular gifts, or you can provide lists of those items (called chattels) or you can give instructions to your Trustee specifically as to who receives what.
- 8: You can create Trusts (called Testamentary Trusts) in your Will where some or all of your property is held by the Trustee for a specific beneficiary and upon the happening of certain named events. Often that provides a safeguard against waste or loss or additional unexpected cost for e.g.: taxes which might otherwise flow through to a beneficiary.
- 9: Have you identified in your Will all of those persons to whom you feel either an obligation or desire to make a gift or to provide a benefit?

AM Legal Solutions can assist you in preparing a simple, accurate and effective Will, Power of Attorney, Enduring Guardianship and Advanced Care Directive. We can provide you with a helpful Will kit and checklist. All you need to do is send us an email and we will respond.

Meet the Team



Alan McMurran

With over 35 years experience and practice as a solicitor Alan heads the firm's legal division. A graduate in Arts and Law from the University of New South Wales having spent 30 years as a principal in CBD law firms practicing principally in commercial litigation, Alan has an extensive background across all jurisdictions.

Giuliana Pelham

Giuliana was admitted as a solicitor in 1995 and has practised for over 18 years. Giuliana provides advice in areas including property law and conveyancing, commercial and residential leasing, Wills, Power of Attorney & Estates, business law and debt recovery. Giuliana is committed to maintaining the highest level of professional standards and ethics at all times.



Anne McDonald

Our conveyancing consultant, Anne was first admitted as a solicitor in 1999 and brings to the practice many years experience in property law. Anne provides a personal and reliable service which is confident and attentive and which has attracted a loyal and appreciative clientele.

Ivanka Nie

Successfully completed her Bachelor of Accounting from the University of Technology and her Masters in Business Administration 2015. Ivanka is an integral member of our team and brings a wealth of skills to our business.



Andrew Lewy

Our Marketing Consultant Andrew Lewy is equipped with a vast breadth of knowledge stemming from brand management roles in some of the world's largest consumer goods companies to sales management roles in local more intimate industries.

Wendy Moses

Wendy has an impressive background in legal firms in excess of 20 years. Wendy is an invaluable team member who runs the AM Legal Accounts Department alongside Elizabeth Woodgate from Ongoing Concern.

Carlie Moses

Our newest team member, Carlie is studying Law at Macquarie University and works part time as a law clerk in our busy practice. Carlie brings many IT skills and expertise to our business.

Debbie McMurran

Our extremely personable Office Manager is always available to assist you. Debbie works well with all team members and promotes an efficient and conscientious work ethic within our office. Debbie is aware of our Solicitors and staff member's daily schedules, which allows her to assist in having your questions answered efficiently.

Adriana Lazich

Personal Assistant to our Solicitors. Adriana brings years of organisational skills to our practice. Adriana previously being employed by Cabletron has a depth of knowledge in helping not only our solicitors but also our valued clients.

Gemma & Renee

Receptionists at our Chifley Tower office, will always transfer your calls to Debbie who is constantly abreast of the location and working schedules of all our solicitors.

Ask Alan...

Question:

Can something I say on social media be defamatory?

Answer:

Of course. Whatever you say in public or to a public forum may be taken down and used against you. Words are a powerful medium and our principal source of communication. This includes texting, sending photographs, implied comments where the person is identified and the comments are derogatory. As long as the comment identifies a person and can be or is communicated to a third party, it can be defamatory. Essentially, if you say something which is untrue (whether you know that or not) and it damages another's reputation you can be sued. An oral defamation is called slander. The written form is called libel (whether in print, pictures or drawings and which exposes the person to ridicule). In short, think before you write. And when in doubt, don't press send. You never know who may be reading or listening.



The first person to find the 11 words and send a picture to debbie@amlegalsolutions.com.au wins a bottle of champagne

Find-a-word

B	E	L	R	O	S	E	I	Q	Y
Y	E	L	F	I	H	C	J	K	T
W	I	L	L	D	E	L	P	N	R
E	X	P	E	R	I	E	N	C	E
R	O	T	I	C	I	L	O	S	P
E	F	F	E	C	T	I	V	E	O
C	O	R	P	O	R	A	T	E	R
L	A	C	I	T	C	A	R	P	P
N	O	I	T	A	G	I	T	I	L
E	E	G	D	E	L	W	O	N	K