WE WANT TO KNOW YOUR VIEWS ON REFORM TO THE LAW OF WILLS:
INVITATION TO A FREE CONSULTATION EVENT

What is this about?

The Law Commission has recently published a consultation paper, Making a Will. The law of wills affects us all and the Commission is keen to hear views from across society – including members of the public and civic groups.

The law in England and Wales that governs wills is, in large part, a product of the 19th century: the main statute is the Wills Act 1837, and the law that specifies when a person has the capacity to make a will is set out in the case of Banks v Goodfellow from 1870. The law of wills needs to be modernised to take account of the changes in society, technology and medical understanding that have taken place since the Victorian era.

The central issues considered in the consultation paper are:

- the capacity to make a will
- the rules about witnessing and signing wills
- protecting vulnerable people who make wills
- electronic wills

We also cover a range of other topics, including whether children should be permitted to make wills.

Your invitation

You are invited to a Law Commission public consultation event. There is no charge for this event.

When: Friday 13 October 2017 from 3.30pm to 5pm.

Where: Norwood Room, Southport Community Centre, Norwood Road, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 6HQ (see: https://southportcommunitycentre.org.uk/find-us/).

Professor Nicholas Hopkins, the Family, Property and Trust Law Commissioner and Spencer Clarke, the lawyer leading the wills project, will give a presentation, following which there will be the opportunity for attendees to contribute their own experiences and views on the issues raised by the consultation paper.

The Law Commission also hopes to encourage written feedback to the questions asked in the consultation paper, which is available, together with a summary and a response form, at www.lawcom.gov.uk/wills.

If you wish to attend, please respond no later than Friday 6 October 2017 to Damien Bruneau at:

Email: damien.bruneau@lawcommission.gsi.gov.uk OR