

National Wills Week: 13-17 Sept

We're all familiar with the popular idiom: death and taxes ("the only two certainties in the world").

The topic of wills is often avoided because, let's be honest, it's not always pleasant to think about what would happen if you were to pass away. Your will is probably the most important document you'll ever sign and the consequences of passing away without a valid will in place can be dire. Without a will in place, everything you leave behind is distributed according to intestate succession law – which is usually not in line with your plan for the inheritance that you'll one day leave behind for your loved ones.

If you have any assets in the form of money, jewellery, property, investments etc., or if you have children who are minors, you need to have a valid will in place.

Every year the Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) promotes National Wills Week, where they encourage law firms to offer free will drafting to raise awareness around the importance of wills. There is an inconceivable statistic that more than 75% of South Africans pass away without a valid will in place. Why is this number so high, you may ask? The results of an independent survey conducted by Primedia Broadcasting helped us get to the bottom of it. The survey posed the question of why consumers hadn't yet got their will in place. The outcome was that procrastination was the top reason for not having a will in place.

"When you consider the impact on your family, your estate and your legacy when you pass away without a will in place, you'd think this would be a top priority – and yet we still see only one in four South Africans passing away with a valid will in place," says Brandon Garbutt, MD of Capital Legacy.

Is your will in order?

This week you can get your will done at no cost through participating law firms. At Capital Legacy, will consultations are free year-round and we've made September "wills Month" to place extra emphasis on this important topic. For more info and to arrange your complimentary will consultation, visit: www.capitallegacy.co.za/willsmoonth