

PRESS RELEASE

STEPHENS & SON  
SOLICITORS

## STEPHENS & SON GO LIVE WITH WILL REGISTER

Stephens & Son LLP Solicitors in Chatham are delighted to be a Founder Member of 'certainty.co.uk, the UK's first 'on-line registry for Wills' which has launched after almost 20 years' lobbying for a register of this nature', says Caroline Brooks-Johnson, Partner and Head of the Inheritance Department. The register enables rapid registration of a Will and the ability to search for lost or missing Wills.

In a recent public survey commissioned by Certainty, 67% of people surveyed were unaware of the location of their parents' Will. Certainty.co.uk is launching with a unique offer making some 12.8 million free of charge Will registrations available to the general public to be used in association with solicitors. Stephens & Son is naturally participating in this launch and offering free registration to any of their clients who have made their Wills prior to May this year.

If you're one of the 67% of people who does not know where your own or your parents' Wills might be, then one day you may be glad of this Will register which can easily locate a Will when needed. Over time circumstances change, you might move house or enter a new relationship and keeping your Will safe may be the last thing on your mind. But now your solicitor can register your Will with certainty.co.uk allowing your family to locate your Will when needed and ensuring that your last wishes are respected.

Certainty's Chairman, Kevin Martin and Law Society President 2005/06, believes that Certainty provides a definitive solution supported by technological investment and consultations with key legal figures. Kevin, who is spearheading the initiative says, "We believe Certainty is the first organisation to actually provide a compliant solution to the chronic problem of Will registration."

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## **What happens if you don't register?**

If your Will is not found or worse still, if you haven't made one, then your loved ones may not receive the inheritance that you would wish but would get the proportions laid down by law, and of course family disputes can occur. So for your own peace of mind, the best advice is to make or review your Will with your solicitor and ask them to register it with Certainty.

The recent explosion of unregulated Will writers, online and home do-it-yourself Will packs is confusing and these Wills cannot be registered, only those prepared by a solicitor.

Caroline Brooks-Johnson Head of the Inheritance Department at Stephens & Son, says: "Everyone who cares what happens to their assets after they die should make a Will and review it regularly especially when they experience a major life change such as marriage, having children or moving house. Having your Will registered is one of the most important things you can do for your loved ones – our clients will now have the peace of mind that their Wills can be easily located Will when the time comes."

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