

Christmas Greetings

— from the Team at Quinlaw —

Happy Holidays

Wishing you and your family a very happy holiday season. Our sincere thanks for your continued support throughout the past year, we look forward to working with you in 2016. Our office will close at 12 noon Wednesday 23rd December 2015 and reopen Monday 11 January 2016. A skeleton staff will be available for any urgent matters and conveyancing. Please leave a message on the office answer phone 7699687 or phone Catherine 021 444 678 or email action@quinlaw.co.nz

Wills

Why have a Will?

Your Will instructs what you want done with your property when you die. You set out who will receive your property and when. As far as you and your family are concerned, it could be the most important piece of paper you ever sign. Having a Will allows you to decide what will go and to whom.

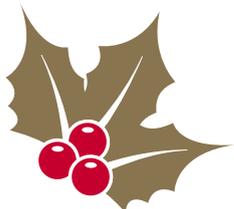
Why do you need a Will?

Please remember that your previous Will is automatically revoked by marriage, so if you marry you need a new Will. If you separate from your spouse or civil union partner, the provisions in your Will relating to your partner will remain valid until the marriage or civil union is legally dissolved (i.e. you are divorced). If you separate obviously you will need to change your Will. The situation is different for de facto partners. Entering into a de facto relationship does not revoke an earlier Will. Similarly, the ending of a de facto relationship does not revoke the provisions in your Will. Need advice - see us.

On-Going Learning

Our Staff Have Undertaken many new learnings this year including:

- Rural Property Transactions and Conference
- Buying & Selling Apartments
- New Land Tax rules
- Purchasing a Business
 - Family Trusts & the PRA
 - Farm Succession Planning
 - Estate Administration
 - Section 21 Agreements
 - Employment issues x2
 - Property Law issues



Thanks for the Random Act of Kindness from By Arrangement Florist. We were happy to pass the flowers on to one of our clients & brighten her day!

Seminars

We are committed to on-going legal education. Gordon went to the 2015 NZ Family Law Conference in Dunedin. An English Lawyer and Accountant Mike Mason spoke on the role of forensic accountants in assessing the value of businesses for relationship property matters. He also gave an interesting presentation on techniques to employ when cross examining expert witnesses.

Barristers gave a presentation on the role of lawyer for child. Lawyer for child's role is now codified and needs to act in a way that promotes the welfare and best interests of the child. This removes any conflict issues for the lawyer when faced with a situation where their child client's instructions conflict with what the lawyer perceives as being in the child's best interests.

There were also a number of speakers on topics related to applications for Spousal Maintenance, Relationship Property, and Trusts. One of the speakers was flamboyant American lawyer Thomas Sasser who handles Relationship Property matters for celebrities such as Tiger Woods.



Gordon Wilson
SOLICITOR



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Employment Relations Amendment Act

This amendment came into effect on 6 March 2015. The changes targeted the following six main areas:

- Flexible working arrangements
- Rest and meal break rules
- Part 6A the continuity of employment for specific employees
- Good faith
- The collective bargaining framework (including strikes and lockouts)
- Employment Relations Authority

For more information please contact Sandy at our office.

Conveyancing

New Tax Information Requirements have been in force since 1 October 2015. Those who have been involved in dealings with land will be aware that lawyers have been required to satisfy themselves that the person or persons they are dealing with are in fact the owners of the land. Photo identification by way of driver's licences or passports has been required as proof of identity since early 2000's. Since 1 October 2015, the Government requires lawyers to obtain IRD numbers. Linz, the government department, which deals with land transactions, is now holding hands with IRD. This will assist with new law regarding taxation of the buying and selling of property. This law, is a result of the Auckland housing crisis. Family homes will be exempt. Will keep you advised and hope to run seminars next year meantime **We will keep you advised and hope to run seminars next year. In the meantime Catherine is now pressing parliament for more hours in a day so that we have time to collect all this information for the government!**



Catherine Quin
PRINCIPAL - SOLICITOR



The Homestart Grant

Some first home buyers are eligible to apply to Housing New Zealand for the Homestart grant. There is a maximum of \$5,000 per person (if they have been a KiwiSaver for 5 years or more) and a minimum of \$3,000 per person (if they have been a KiwiSaver for 3 years). The key to this time consuming application is to get it right first time. We offer to help at no extra cost to our clients, just part of our service.

Testimonial

"We would like to express our gratitude to Rose Mary Wilson for all that she has done for us to obtain our first home. Rose Mary conducted her work with us in a very professional manner and her work ethic towards us was exemplary to say the least. Rose Mary clearly explained all relevant details of the house title transfer procedure. Her guidance on the correct way to file the necessary papers for the First Home Grant and KiwiSaver Withdrawal was excellent. However we had some issues with the First Home Grant. The Government department that processes the papers for some unknown reason received both but only processed one. Rose Mary was able to help us with the issue and was able to get a finance extension for us while the Government department resolved the problem". CCJ.

*Wishing you a
healthy & prosperous
New Year*

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