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2017: Issue 7

This issue:

- De Facto Relationships and Assets upon Breaking Up
- Updated Divorce Statistics
- 5 Reasons to Review your Will Regularly
- Right to Defend Properties



The Szabo Report: 5 Reasons to Review your Will Regularly

Good morning <<First Name>>,

There are many reasons why you should regularly review your Will and estate plan. Apart from a Will the 2 other important documents that spring to mind are an Enduring Power of Attorney which appoints someone you trust to look after your financial affairs should you lose your mental capacity and an Appointment of Enduring Guardians which again allows someone you trust to give instructions about your medical, dental, accommodation and care needs when your mental capacity to do so yourself is lost. Both these documents are of no effect once you die and that is where an up to date Will deals with your assets as stated in your last Will. Here is a blog which explores the reasons you need an [up to date Will](#).

The reason this newsletter may be slightly late is that I have been in the Supreme Court instructing counsel in a case dealing with a property dispute. Our case involves both straight property issues as well as Land & Environment Court aspects.

In this [blog](#) you can read about a battle by residents with a local Council.

Our family law department has some news: Monique has left for the time being on maternity leave. We wish her all the best and look forward to her return in 'due' course. Pun intended! In the meanwhile, a new Family Law Solicitor (Jocelyn Magee) has started with us last week. We will introduce her in more detail in our next newsletter.

But for now, here are 2 blogs dealing with family law issues: one about the Census showing a slight increase in [divorce numbers](#) and the other talking about what happens to your assets if your [de facto relationship ends](#).

Hope you find the above interesting and as always, if we can assist you, your family or colleagues with any of the areas of our practice, please [do not hesitate to call us](#).

Regards,
George Szabo



5 Reasons Why You Should Review Your



In a De Facto Relationship? What



Census Reveals Slight Increase in

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End?

Research shows that almost half of Australians do not have a Will and for those who do many are not up to date (meaning perhaps as little as 35% of adults have a current Will) exposing their family to complications and possible financial difficulties on their death.

By making a Will you ensure that your wishes for your estate are respected after your death.

If you die without a Will you are said to have died intestate. In the event that a valid Will has not been left it will be necessary to apply for 'Letters of Administration' to the NSW Supreme Court.

[Find out more...](#)

In this piece, we shall look at de facto relationships and, should the relationship end, what this might mean regarding spousal maintenance or property settlement claims particularly in the light of the findings in a recent (same sex) de facto relationship case: *Chancellor & McCoy (2016)*.

Essentially any relationship which people consider themselves to be in, without being related to each other, could be considered de facto. It may not even be necessary to live together full time.

[Find out more...](#)

The Australian Bureau of Statistics recently published the results of the 2016 Census, and the figures have given an interesting insight into the status of relationships in Australia.

According to the data, there has been a slight fall in the number of people who are married and a slight rise in the number who said they were either divorced or separated.

In 2016, 8.5% of the population said they were divorced, compared to 8.4% in 2011 when the last Census was carried out.

[Find out more...](#)



Residents Battle Council over Right to Defend Properties

The six residents live in properties right on the beach front. They came close to losing their homes when a super storm hit the area in June last year, and experts have acknowledged that their homes are at risk of being swept away should another similar size storm hit them again.

[Find out more...](#)

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