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2017: Issue 4

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- Siblings battle over estate
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- Family law time limits



The Szabo Report: Family Legal Battles Over Estates

Good Morning <<First Name>>,

Easter and Anzac Day have been and gone and now it will be difficult to get back to working a full 5 day week. At least until our next public holiday!

This month we are bringing you a mix of articles and blogs. The first one is about a [court battle between siblings over their father's estate](#). Our team specialises in assisting clients contest Wills for further provision in cases such as this. We also advise clients about defending the estate against such claims. We have a number of ongoing cases in this area of the law including one with an international flavour where 2 Hungarian sisters have been left the vast bulk of their Uncle's estate. Their uncle resided for much of his life in Australia. Two claimants have 'come out of the woodwork' claiming provision under his estate. A mediation has taken place without success. The two claimants are now considering our post mediation offers. If we cannot settle, then the matter will be listed for hearing in the Supreme Court. There are many other types of Will disputes. If you have one, we can assist.

Speaking of 'international flavour' the next link is a page from our website which talks about the fact that [a large number of people die without a valid Will](#) – not only in Australia but also in other countries.

In Australia, the often quoted percentage is about 50%. What we never hear is how many of those with a valid Will at the time of death do not have an up to date Will – taking into account all the changes that may have happened in their lives including divorce and re-marriage, for example.

Next you will find a previously published blog by our family law specialist Monique about some of [the important time limits and requirements surrounding Divorce, Family Law & Child Support](#).

Finally, you can read a blog about the [NSW Government's aim to speed up the property development approval process](#). Call me a cynic, but it reminds me of the old saying: "I'm from the government and I'm here to help!" We can assist you with all aspects of property law including conveyancing, commercial and retail leasing, disputes in the Supreme Court or, if you need to take on your local Council then in the Land & Environment Court.

Please feel free to phone us for an appointment if we can assist you or your friends, family or colleagues in any of our practice areas. [Our contact details can be found here.](#)

Regards,

George Szabo

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Siblings Battle over Late Father's Estate

A man has failed in his attempt to claim a share of his late father's estate, the Sydney Morning Herald has reported.

The case concerned the estate of Antonio Barbanera, who died in October 2014. His wife Maria had died several years earlier, in November 2009. The couple had four children: John, Nancy, Peter and Angela.

Under the terms of his most recent Will, signed in April 2008, Antonio left his whole estate to his wife, with a proviso that if she pre-deceased him the estate would be left to Nancy, Peter and Angela. The estate included a cash sum of \$50,000 and a house valued at around \$2 million.

[Find out more...](#)



Absence of Wills is an Ongoing International Issue

Too many people across Australia have yet to take the important step of writing a Will.

According to NSW Trustee & Guardian, as many as 45% of adult Australians are currently without Will. This is a worrying statistic, because having a valid and up-to-date Will in place is the best way to ensure that your assets are distributed in accordance with your wishes after you have passed away.

Another unknown statistic is: how many of those 55% with a Will in place have an up to date Will taking into account changes in personal and family circumstances since they have had their Will prepared?

[Find out more...](#)



Speeding Up the Property Development Application Process

Property development applications in NSW should be processed more quickly following the publication of a new Development Assessment Best Practice Guide, NSW Government has claimed.

The new guide aims to help NSW councils evaluate development applications (DAs) more efficiently, which should ultimately lead to faster approvals.

Government figures project that the population of NSW will continue to grow annually by more than 100,000. As a result, homes will be needed for an additional 2.1 million residents by 2036.

[Find out more...](#)



Divorce, Family Law & Child Support: Important Time Limits and Requirements

The law that governs divorce and separation is copious and complex. We have prepared this If you are planning or are already a party to family law proceedings then use this list of time limits to assist you. Note: while these do not constitute all time limits that may apply to family law, divorce or child support matters, they are a good starting point!

[Find out more...](#)

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