



Can't Take It With You

You might have watched the BBC2 series '*Can't Take It With You*' that has recently finished. A number of scenarios that we come across on a regular basis were covered.

Programme 1: Charity Doesn't Begin at Home

Lesley wanted to leave half the family home to charity, but husband David wanted all of it to be left to his two sons by a previous marriage.

Meanwhile, army major Tom was bound for Baghdad and urgently needed to make a Will that included his two stepdaughters, but his new wife Kiera was against the principle of inheritance and would rather have left everything they jointly owned to charity.

Programme 2: Favouritism

Mother of five Brenda wanted to leave more to youngest daughter Kerrie to make up for childcare she had given her other daughters. But husband Robert was terrified that Brenda's plan could cause a rift between the five girls they had always treated equally.

When Trevor's parents died, they left him 80 per cent of their estate, while half-sister Pat got just 20 per cent. Now history seemed to be repeating itself: Trevor's desire to pass money back to Pat's family was complicated by his plan to show favouritism to just one of his nieces.

Programme 3: Sons and Daughters

Raymond was desperate to protect the Kent farm he had spent a lifetime building up and wanted to leave it all to his sons who worked there and leave out his daughter who didn't. But wife Jane wasn't convinced this was fair.

Meanwhile devout Muslims Khalid and Sara had raised their two daughters to be equal to their son, but the Koran states that boys should be left twice as much as their sisters. Khalid and Sara faced a dilemma over making a Will that was fair to their kids in contemporary Britain, while remaining true to their faith.

Programme 4: Guardianship

Sarah had two daughters by different fathers. She wanted new husband Jason to take on both girls if she died, but was concerned that her former partner might want to separate the sisters.

In the second family, Ian was a polar adventurer, who had

been unable to write his Will because he and wife Becky couldn't agree on whose parents would be best to bring up their three young daughters. Both wanted their own parents to take on the role, but the two sets of grandparents were very different.

Programme 5: The Family Business

Nev and Alan had built up a £3 million business which son Damian wanted them to leave protected for future generations. But daughter Vashti wanted the freedom to decide what to do with her share of the business. They had to face up to the fact that they might not trust their daughter to do the right thing.

Hans and Anna were in despair over how to hand on their £4 million garden-nursery business to their six adult children, three of whom disagreed over who should take charge in the future.

Programme 6: Disability

Bruce wanted to write a Will which left nothing to his children, or his autistic grandson, but instead gave everything to his two other grandchildren. However, Bruce's whole family disagreed with this plan.

Patsy and Andy couldn't agree on what to leave their daughter, Rebecca. Andy thought she should get more than her brothers because she was severely disabled and would need lifelong care, but Patsy couldn't bear the thought of leaving some children less than others and wanted to divide everything three ways.

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Despite the variety of 'stumbling blocks' and tough choices that were preventing the couples from deciding how to proceed, they all agreed that being able to sit down and discuss their concerns with a professional who could guide them through the law and reach a solution was a big help and they were all relieved when the process had been completed.

That's how we work. We meet with our clients and provide them with all the advice and guidance they need to 'clear the mist' and be in a position to construct the most appropriate strategy.

Please contact us for further information or to book an appointment.

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