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Call for Government to show a greater will when it comes to encouraging estate planning

THE Government is being urged to consider making a will a legal requirement to avoid the trauma which so often results when a person dies without one.

Brian McMillan, who is Director General of the Society of Will Writers (SWW), the UK's leading professional body for the will writing industry with more than 2,000 members.

Brian said: "The Government has a responsibility to increase awareness of the importance of planning for the one inevitable in life. I know some people will say, 'well he would say that wouldn't he,' but if those people witnessed the distress caused within a family when a relative dies without leaving a will, they would be more inclined to agree with me.

"The Government finds so many ways to interfere in our lives and offer plentiful advice on a wide range of issues, but when it comes to something as important as this, it seems to take little interest.

"I am reluctant to suggest this may be because the state often benefits quite nicely when a person dies intestate, but I believe there is an onus on the Government to at the very least conduct an awareness campaign, stressing the importance of a will. If this doesn't prove successful in increasing the very small number of people who write a will, I would urge them to consider legislation. I will be writing to local MPs about the issue to gauge their reaction," he said.

Brian said members of the Society of Will Writers, who are fully trained and have professional indemnity insurance, are able to visit people in the comfort of their own home to discuss their will and estate-planning needs.

ENDS

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Issued on behalf of the Society of Will Writers by PJR Communications Ltd. For further information, please contact Peter Richardson on 01206 843225.