

# legal update

For You • For Your Life • On Time • On Budget

Private Client Newsletter  
Issue 4 Autumn 2008

## Unmarried father? What rights do you have?

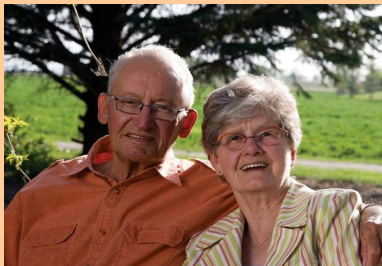


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#### FREE Wills for the over 75s



#### Relationship Advice from



Do you realise that many unmarried fathers simply have no legal rights in relation to their own children? Well, it's true.

Parental Responsibility is, broadly speaking, all the rights and responsibilities you would expect a parent to have in respect of their child including the ability to name the child and to decide where that child lives and goes to school, so without it you may find you have very little legal say in your child's upbringing.

Those fathers who have married their child's mother share full Parental Responsibility with the mum, but an unmarried dad does not automatically have Parental Responsibility unless:

- His name is registered as father on the child's birth certificate after December 1, 2003
- He has entered into a Parental Responsibility Agreement with the mother.

- He has a court order for Parental Responsibility or a Residence Order.

With nearly one in four children growing up in a lone-parent family, of which over 90% are headed by the mother, hundreds of thousands of fathers may simply not realise that they have no legal rights whatsoever with regard to their own children.

For further information or advice on how unmarried dads can get parental responsibility, please contact:

Amanda Trappes-Lomax at our Salisbury office  
[E] [amanda.trappes-lomax@bishopslaw.com](mailto:amanda.trappes-lomax@bishopslaw.com)  
[T] 01722 422300

Lin Cumberlin at our Andover office  
[E] [lin.cumberlin@bishopslaw.com](mailto:lin.cumberlin@bishopslaw.com)  
[T] 01264 364433

### Need advice? Visit one of our FREE legal surgeries

Bonallack & Bishop offer hugely successful, weekly, free legal surgeries at our offices in Salisbury, Andover and Amesbury. These clinics enable people to drop in for a meeting with one of our law team and get free legal advice on a issue they may have been worried about.

The Amesbury surgery on Wednesday is aimed specifically at those with family law problems, such as separation and divorce, child contact and custody arrangements and parental responsibility concerns.

#### Free drop in legal surgeries at: Salisbury

Tuesday, 5.15pm-7pm  
Tel: 01722 422300

#### Andover

Tuesday, 5.15pm-7pm  
Tel: 01264 364433

#### Amesbury

Wednesday 2pm-5pm  
Tel: 01980 622992

## Don't want your family to worry?

For 12th-17th January only  
In our **Salisbury Office**

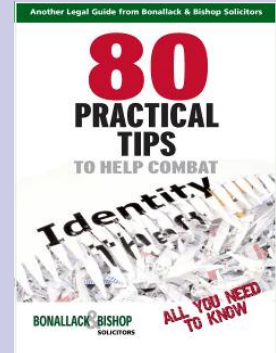
## FREE Wills for the over-75s

For more details or to book an appointment,  
please contact **Gill Bassett** on  
[gill.bassett@bishopslaw.com](mailto:gill.bassett@bishopslaw.com) or **01722 422300**

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## Unhappy at home?



Our clients tell us that when they come to see us about key events in their personal or business lives, there are often emotional factors that cloud the issue. We are aware that our training and perspective leads us to focus on the legal issues. Therefore, we are pleased to announce that we have teamed up with The Happy Relationship Company, whose skills in personal communication, coaching and therapy fill this gap.

Nigel and Jenny Heath are on hand at our regular Tuesday evening surgeries in Salisbury to talk to you if you have worries about your relationships or other important issues.

Download their top relationship tips from:  
[www.bishopslaw.com/relationships](http://www.bishopslaw.com/relationships)  
or contact them directly on:  
**0800 298 5938**

*"It's not always possible to agree about everything. Sometimes it's important to see the other person's point of view. This can be hard when you are caught up in your own issues, so objective support will help you deal with the conflicting emotions involved."*

## DID YOU KNOW?

We also specialise in commercial work. If you would like advice on any of the following, please contact our Salisbury or Andover offices.

- Business Law
- Business Litigation
- Commercial Property
- Company Secretarial
- Debt Recovery
- Employment
- Landlord & Tenant
- Licensing
- Notary Public

For more information about our full range of services visit our website at [www.bishopslaw.com](http://www.bishopslaw.com) or contact our offices:

Rougemont House, Rougemont Close, Manor Road,  
Salisbury, SP1 1LY Tel: **01722 422300**  
[salisbury@bishopslaw.com](mailto:salisbury@bishopslaw.com)

Queensberry House, 5 Salisbury Street, Amesbury,  
Wiltshire, SP4 7AW Tel: **01980 622992**  
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