

Do You Own Assets in the UK?

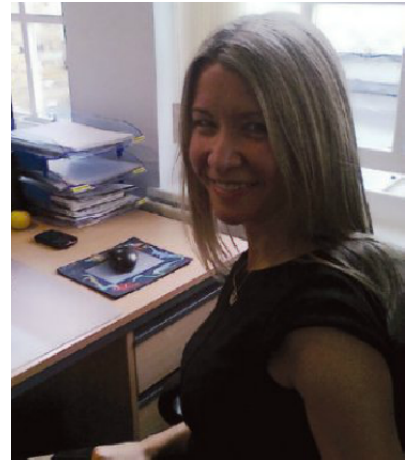
Making a will is always a good idea and is pretty essential if you are resident in the UK and own assets here. However, it is also important to have an up-to-date English will, even if you return to your home country, but continue to own UK assets.

A recent case brought this very much to light at Corren Troen. Our client was a Dane who had lived in the UK for several years. She moved back to Denmark when her English husband died and eventually passed away in Denmark. She had retained a bank account and a few other assets in the UK, and because the value of those assets exceeded £5,000, an English grant of probate was required before they could be released to the Danish Executors of her estate.

The deceased had made a Danish will, which was duly translated into English

and submitted to the Probate Registry in Oxford. As is often the case, the Probate Registry did not accept that the Danish will had correctly appointed Executors of the estate. This is where the fun began! A convoluted procedure followed, involving the drafting of affidavits relating to foreign law and the domicile of the deceased, together with the appointment of attorneys. This process was both time consuming and costly for the deceased's estate and ultimately for the heirs. This entire process could have so easily been avoided, simply by making sure an English will was in place to deal with the UK assets.

So, if you are currently living in the UK and plan to stay, or to return home in the foreseeable future, it is worth bearing in mind that having one simple document in place could one day save a lot of hassle and expense for those you leave behind.



Liz Jones regularly advises Nordic clients living in the UK on private client issues. For more information on making a will or other private client matters, contact Corren Troen on +44 207 592 8900.