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**Q**

**My father recently passed away without a Will. Within his personal papers, we found a letter that identifies what he wanted done with his estate. Can we administer his estate based on the letter?**

**A**

Recent changes to legislation permit a court to authorize or validate Wills that do not comply with the formalities normally required in a Will. These legislative changes apply to estates in which the person passed away after December 31, 2021. Even if there are deficiencies in the letter or other documents, a court may validate the document as a Will, if the court is satisfied that it represents the true intentions of the deceased.

In these situations, it is prudent to have the court validate the document as a Will rather than just go ahead and administer the estate based on the letter. Having the court validate the document helps protect you from personal liability when you subsequently administer the estate.

If you are dealing with an estate issue, give us a call to set up a free ½ hour consultation.

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The advice offered in this column is intended for informational purposes only. Use of this column is not intended to replace or substitute any professional, financial, medical, legal, or other professional advice.

## NEWS

# AGGRESSION TOWARD HEALTH-CARE STAFF ON THE RISE

KATHY YANCHUS  
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More security guards have been hired by Halton Healthcare to deal with increasing aggression toward staff in the wake of longer pandemic-related wait times.

The rise in "hostile behaviour" is directly linked to an unprecedented increase in activity in HH hospitals, and an unfortunate change in public perception from staff being seen as heroes to being on the receiving end of frustration for long wait times, said Laura Zilke, HH manager, communications and public affairs.

Such behaviour is seen most frequently in the emergency departments, but is not uncommon in



Graham Paine/Metroland

More security have been hired to deal with rising frustration among those seeking care.

other parts of the hospital, including the testing centre and screening desks when people are asked to adhere to infection prevention and control measures, she said.

"We recognize how stressful the current situation is for patients and families. Our teams continue to do their absolute best in a system which is overload-

ed.

"They continue to offer incredible care and have done extraordinary work throughout the pandemic."

Zilke added that despite the current challenges, HH hospitals continue to be safe places to work and to receive care.

Halton Healthcare includes Oakville, Milton and Georgetown hospitals.

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