

Busbys

Solicitors

Caring for our clients

Specialisation: As a result of our extensive experience of dealing with the concerns of private clients and their families, **Busbys** are able to give you the most up to date practical solutions to any questions and problems you may have.

Keeping in touch: We recognise the importance of keeping in touch. This is not only while we are dealing with any specific matter for you, but also more generally over the years. We see it as part of our service to make you aware of the developments that might affect or interest you as they arise by sending periodic newsletters free of charge.

Costs: There will be no hidden surprises for you when it comes to our charges. We always advise our clients of our charging methods at the outset and keep you updated as matters progress.

Technology: Our office is fully equipped with the very latest in modern technology. This enables **Busbys** to enhance our efficiency, accuracy and to respond to your needs as soon as possible.

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Getting in Touch

People often turn to us when it is too late. If you or your family have questions which are of concern, don't hesitate to contact us. Our experience means we are able to deal quickly and efficiently with any problems that may arise, ensuring that your best interests are taken care of at all times. Inheritance Tax and Estate Planning need careful thought and implementation as soon as possible. So don't delay.

Contact **Sharon Piper, Trust and Estate Practitioner**, who heads our Wills, Probate and Private Client department. Sharon looks forward to helping you. Home and hospital visits can be arranged.

Opening Hours:

Mon-Fri: 9-1 & 2-5
(at other times by appointment)

Busbys Solicitors

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Inheritance Tax and Estate Planning



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What is Inheritance Tax?

Inheritance Tax is the tax paid to the Inland Revenue on Estates where more than £325,000* worth of assets passes to persons other than the surviving spouse/civil partner.

£325,000* is the *current cut off point, above which Inheritance Tax is payable on a person's Estate. (This cut-off point is called the "nil rate band")*.

Note: The nil rate band for spouses/civil partners is £650,000 and is applicable for the 2010-2011 Tax Year.

What is its impact?

The impact of Inheritance Tax on even the most modest of Estates can be severe. Subject to certain exemptions, Inheritance Tax on an Estate is paid to the Inland Revenue at a rate of 40% on the value of the estate above £325,000*. So for every £10 above £325,000*, £4 of Inheritance Tax can be going to the Inland Revenue!

*applicable 2008-2009
£325,000 in 2009-2010
£325,000 in 2010-2011

Inheritance Tax and Estate Planning

Are you the Chancellor's friend?

In the UK alone, it is estimated that people are paying over £1 billion more Inheritance Tax to the government than they need to, and 66% of the UK adult population have yet to make a Will. (For more information, see our leaflet entitled "Making a Will").

Why should it affect me?

You may dismiss the idea that your Estate could be worth in the region of £325,000*, but it may come as a shock when you begin to work out the value of your Estate, to find out just how wealthy you are! So you should consider taking steps to gift your wealth to those you want to benefit.

Are any assets exempt from Inheritance Tax?

Thankfully yes! The following assets are exempt.

- charitable donations.
- assets transferred to a surviving spouse/civil partner.
- farming/farming businesses.
- qualifying business assets.
- shareholders in certain companies.

What can I do to try and avoid my Estate paying Inheritance Tax?

Seeking professional advice on making effective use of the tax exemptions available, along with a properly structured Will, can ensure that gifts and transfers to beneficiaries can be made free of Inheritance Tax.

What do I do next?

Make an appointment to come in and see us to take advice on Inheritance Tax and Estate Planning.

Related Matters

As you are putting your affairs in order, we would also suggest that you read our leaflets on Lasting Powers of Attorney, Putting your Affairs in Order, and Making a Will.