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Making A Will Is Not So Simple By VIJAI PARWANI

BODY:

WHILE it is commendable that The Sunday Times has highlighted the importance of registering a will (ST, Feb 3), I am very concerned about the example of the simple will which was used.

No doubt the drafting of a will does not require the assistance of a lawyer, but there are many technicalities, which, if not complied with, can render a will ineffective.

For example, where the interests of someone below 21 are concerned, there must be two executors named. Merely having a second person named as a guardian is insufficient.

Neither is it sufficient that the testator executes the will before two witnesses; these two witnesses must be present as the testator executes the will and must also sign the will in the presence of each other.

There are specific clauses which are normally drafted into a will which make this requirement clear.

If the limitations of the example provided are not highlighted, I fear the unsuspecting may follow it blindly and live in the mistaken belief that their assets have been properly willed away in accordance with their intentions.