

# Seek a qualified will drafter

WITH reference to the readers' letters published under the heading "Don't go to the bank for your will" (May 29), it is important to note that a will, no matter how simple it may seem, should be drafted by a person who has the necessary skills. Such a person requires not only a sound knowledge of various pieces of legislation that affect wills, but also sufficient experience in analysing whether a simple will suffices or whether there are other more complex issues that may need to be addressed. It is always preferable to have a face-to-face meeting with the

drafter, who can then take, first hand, correct instructions and ask further questions where necessary so that the will is best suited to the particular circumstances and needs of the testator/testatrix.

The drafting of inadequate wills does not only rest in the domain of the banks since many technically flawed wills are also drawn by members of the attorneys' profession, the accounting profession and others. It is preferable to source a person who has the necessary qualification and experience to draw a suitable will and such

persons can be found in the ranks of the banks, legal profession, accounting profession and so on. The Fiduciary Institute of South Africa accredits members from all professions (including the banks) who are suitably qualified with the necessary experience in the drafting of wills. It is advisable to ensure, before giving instruction to draft a will, whether the person is a member of the Fiduciary Institute of South Africa and duly accredited as a wills drafter. A list of members can be found at [www.fidsa.org](http://www.fidsa.org) — *Alfie Bester*