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### **ESTATE PLANNING PRECEDENT'S A SOLICITORS MANUAL**

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**Release No. 4, August 2025**

"Estate Planning Precedents: A Solicitor's Manual" includes a wide variety of precedents covering all aspects of wills and estates. Also included are domestic contracts, trust deed documents, powers of attorney, appendices containing estate planning forms, checklists, and signing instructions, plus relevant legislation and IT Bulletins, Information Circulars and Advance Tax Rulings. This product is designed as a useful tool for everyday use by the busy estates practitioner.

### **What's New in this Update:**

This release features new commentary in Appendix B—Commentary: Estate Planning Issues and updates to Appendix C—New Developments and Appendix D—Legislation.

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## Highlights

- **Estates and trusts—Estates—Intestate succession—Inheritance by spouse—Common law spouse**—Deceased M died in 2022—M was survived by two children, ages 14 and 12—M passed away without will—Plaintiff T was in relationship with M for seven years prior to M's death—T claimed to have been spouse of M—M's estate denied that T was M's spouse—T brought application for declaration pursuant to s. 2(1)(b) of *Wills, Estates and Succession Act* that T was spouse of M at time of his death—Application granted—It was more likely than not that T lived with M in marriage-like relationship for at least two years before M's death—Marriage-like relationship began in September 2015, when M and T started living together—T began providing kind of financial support to M that characterized entire relationship—T purchased larger home that could accommodate M and children—M had little by way of income and was financially dependent on T—Relationship was sexual in nature—While children did not necessarily view T as mother figure, children understood that father's relationship with T was important to him and long-lasting—T designated M as beneficiary on RRSP and M was listed as T's spouse for purposes of T's workplace pension—T was one of only small number of people who spoke at M's funeral, and photos of T and M together featured in slide show of M's life—T and M were in marriage-like relationship starting in 2015 and continuing uninterrupted until M's untimely death almost seven years later.
- *Hill v. Dhanda*, 2025 BCSC 333, 2025 CarswellBC 491, Bantourakis J. (B.C. S.C.) [British Columbia].

## ProView Developments

Your ProView edition of this product now has a new, modified layout:

- The opening page is now the title page of the book as you would see in the print work
- As with the print product, the front matter is in a different order than previously displayed
- The Table of Cases and Index are now in PDF with no searching and linking
- The Table of Contents now has internal links to every chapter and section of the book within ProView
- Images are generally greyscale and size is now adjustable
- Footnote text only appears in ProView-generated PDFs of entire sections and pages