



Georgia Wills & Trusts

February 2019

(v.19.01)

Legal Developments

Increased Federal Tax Exemptions (effective January 1, 2019)

Applicable Exclusion Amount: \$11,400,000 (up from \$11,180,000)
GST Exemption Amount: \$11,400,000 (up from \$11,180,000)
Gift Tax Annual Exclusion Amount: \$15,000 (no change from 2018)

Updated Product Features

New Proprietary Power of Attorney Form

Based on customer comments, the editors decided to include a new proprietary power of attorney form. This is an enhancement to the prior proprietary form that we pulled because of the new approach to the GA DPA law. While the law will continue to favor the simpler statutory form (for enforceability purposes), there are things it does not address which are included in our proprietary form. We see the revised form not as an alternative to the statutory version, but as a supplement for clients with complicated situations for which an extended form may prove helpful in the right circumstances. *New Questions 1252, 1275-1281*

New 'Name of 2nd Grantor' Question Added to Certificate of Trust

A new question asks to enter the name of the 2nd Grantor if the Certificate of Trust is for a joint trust in order to clarify the grammar relating to the term Grantor(s). *Question 1358*

Decanting Provision Revised

The legislature adopted a new provision to allow Trustees having discretion to distribute principal the flexibility to decant into a second trust. This adds much flexibility in dealing with trusts. Our decanting provision, located in the Clause Bank, has been revised and reformatted. With more and more use of decanting, we felt it should have its own article. *Question 1503*

SOFTWARE UPGRADES - Microsoft Word Users

For Word users, we added a function to immediately convert the exported document to native Word format based on Word 2007 or later (versions earlier than Word 2007 are not supported), so your document will be in the .docx format when it opens.

Explanation: To be as flexible as possible for various word processors, Lawgic exports documents in Rich Text Format (RTF) that both Microsoft Word and Corel WordPerfect can easily read. RTF in its native form is not as robust or sophisticated as either of those word

processing programs and, if the edited document is saved with an RTF extension, some glitches can occur. Some document management systems have trouble handling the conflict between formats. This new procedure should solve those issues.

WordPerfect users don't seem to have these problems, but we will keep an eye out for inconsistencies going forward.

Other – The 'Law_Surf' file has been replaced with a new 'Sample' file. You may delete the 'Law_Surf' file if you wish.

* * * * *

To view those questions that are new in this update, or where **Law & Strategy**, choices, or default answers have changed, use the "**Up_1901**" flag file. From inside Lawgic, open any existing answer file; on the **Flags** menu, click **Open Flags**, select the appropriate Title (click **OK**), and next select the "**Up_1901**" flag file (and click **OK**). To view all flagged questions, click **Expand All** on the **Answers** menu and scroll the Navigator. Flagged questions will be indicated with **blue bold** text.

Please continue to send us your suggestions on existing or new products. Contact our Technical Support Department at 1-877-2-LAWGIC (252-9442) or e-mail us at support@lawgic.com.