

Date

Mayor/Police Chief/ Fire Chief
Address
City, State Zip

Re: Alabama State Bar Wills for Heroes Project.

Dear Mayor _____:

I am writing to you today to let you know about a valuable **free** benefit to our first responders in _____ County sponsored by the Alabama State Bar: the Wills for Heroes Project.

Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, attorney Anthony Hayes of the South Carolina State Bar contacted a Columbia, South Carolina, Assistant Fire Chief, asking what lawyers could do to help the members of his department. After meeting with a sampling of the men and women of his department, the Chief found that the service most needed by a majority of his members was basic estate planning: wills, powers of attorney, and living wills, which very few of them had. Given the hazards of their profession, having these documents to protect them and their families was vital. The local project quickly spread throughout the state, and to other states. And thus, the Wills for Heroes Project was born. Alabama is the fifth state to participate in the Project.

The goal of this program is to offer free wills, powers of attorney, and living wills to all first responders—police officers, sheriff’s deputies, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel—who lack basic estate plans and who have assets of less than \$600,000. The documents will be prepared by licensed attorneys at the station houses of the first responders.

A sign-up sheet will be posted at the station house for first responders to sign up on a first-come, first-served basis, at which time they will be given a questionnaire. The questionnaire gives a brief explanation of the process, outlines important caveats and asks the participant to answer key questions necessary to draft the documents. The questionnaire also asks key questions, such as the participant’s choice for personal estate representative (executor of their Will), trustee, guardian, etc. By receiving the questions in advance, the participants are able to think through these decisions and discuss the issues with their spouse or other trusted friend.

The first clinic is tentatively scheduled for _____, 2010, where participants will meet with a licensed attorney and the documents will be prepared, signed and witnessed, and the originals delivered to them in one meeting.

Several successful clinics have already been held in Montgomery, Huntsville, Decatur, Auburn, Mobile and Birmingham and were very well received.

I am seeking your support and assistance in encouraging your first responders to participate in the program. **I want to assure you that there is absolutely no charge to your**

personnel for this service. I would be happy to speak with you and to answer any questions you may have. I look forward to hearing from you so we can put the program into effect for our first responders in _____ County.

Sincerely yours,

Name
_____ County Coordinator
Wills for Heroes Project

LTR/ltr
cc: Linda Lund, Director, ASB Volunteer Lawyer Program

