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Utah Bar offers free wills for emergency responders

ST. GEORGE — Policemen and firefighters in St. George will receive free wills and other estate planning documents Friday through Wills for Heroes, a Young Lawyers Division of the Utah State Bar program that provides free estate planning services for emergency first responders and their spouses or partners.

The Young Lawyers Division has teamed up with the law firm Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLC for the Utah roll-out of Wills for Heroes, which is providing computers, printers, volunteers, technical support and other materials for this event.

LexisNexis has also provided financial and technical support, allowing the program to expand and serve first responders both in Utah and around the United States.

According to Rachel Terry, one of the program coordinators, Utah attorneys will volunteer Friday at the St. George police station, 265 N. 200 E. from 2 to 5 p.m.

Through Wills for Heroes, volunteer lawyers meet with the police officers and firefighters to create free estate planning documents.

"It's very gratifying to use our skills as lawyers to protect the men and women who protect us." said Rachel Terry.

The Young Lawyers Division is pleased to introduce the Wills for Heroes first in St. George in conjunction with the Utah State Bar's Spring Convention. According to Stephanie Wilkins Pugsley, Utah Young Lawyers division president, the Wills for Heroes program will soon be offered to first responders statewide. Pugsley explained that the program will go to Salt Lake City in May.

All of Utah's first responders, — police officers, firefighters, paramedics, corrections, and probation officers — and their spouse or domestic partner are eligible for the Wills for Heroes program, which is coordinated through their employer.

The Young Lawyers Division's implementation of this program is overseen by the Wills for Heroes Foundation, which has helped thousands of first responders nationwide.

Utah attorneys practicing three years or less or under the age of 36 are members of the Young Lawyers Division, making it the largest section of the Utah State Bar with approximately 2,100 active members.

The "YLD" has a well-earned reputation for its record of public service. In addition to Wills for Heroes, the Young Lawyers Division organizes and primarily staffs the Tuesday Night Bar, where lawyers volunteer to meet briefly one-on-one with individuals at no cost. For more information about the Young Lawyers Division visit www.utahyounglawyers.org.
