

## Multiple Wills to Reduce Probate Tax

[phone rings]

Receptionist: Cohen Highley.

Announcer: The Cohen Highley legal moment on Fresh FM. I'm here with Tyler Hortie from Cohen Highley lawyers. So there's estate planning changes coming?

Tyler: The Minister of Revenue will soon have additional audit powers to verify asset values reported by estate trustees on applications for certificates of appointment of estate trustee with or without a will.

Announcer: Meaning?

Tyler: There'll be a four year audit window from the date the court issues the certificate to verify the values of real and personal property such as vehicles furniture and art and that the correct administration tax is paid.

Announcer: So if the house sells for more than the trustee expected?

Tyler: The extra value must be reported and the extra tax paid.

Announcer: And if you don't?

Tyler: The extra estate administration tax will be collected plus interest and the trustees can be fined personally. Going forward, individuals need estate plans not just wills. You might also consider a corporate estate trustee rather than a family member given this additional complexity.

Announcer: Thanks Tyler. This has been the Cohen Highley legal moment. Cohenhighley.com.

Singers: Cohen Highley, we're listening.