

## ADGM Courts' Notary Public and Wills Office

### Wills – Frequently Asked Questions

1. [Who can use ADGM Courts' wills service?](#)
2. [What are the essential criteria for a will to be accepted for notarisation?](#)
3. [How do I submit a will notarisation request?](#)
4. [What documents do I submit with my will notarisation request?](#)
5. [What should I expect with my appointment with the Notary Public?](#)
6. [How can I prove my identity before the Notary Public if I am not a UAE resident and do not hold an Emirates ID?](#)
7. [Can the Notary Public notarise a will over assets:](#)
  - a. [located outside Abu Dhabi but in the UAE?](#)
  - b. [located outside the UAE?](#)
8. [Does ADGM Courts' Notary Public and Wills Office provide a probate service?](#)
9. [Do you have a list of law firms who offer will drafting services?](#)

#### 1. Who can use ADGM Courts' wills service?

The wills service is available to non-Muslim individuals, aged 21 years and over, who own assets in the UAE.

#### 2. What are the essential criteria for a will to be accepted for notarisation?

- The will must be in bilingual format (Arabic and English) certified by a legal translator licensed by the UAE Ministry of Justice.
- The will must also include the following information:
  - o The following personal information of the Testator:
    - name as stated in the Emirates ID;
    - Emirates ID number, (applicable for UAE residents only);
    - Passport number;
    - nationality;
    - date of birth;
    - place of birth; and
    - address.

- Declaration of religion;
- Appointment of executor(s) and statement of their powers;
- Appointment of guardians (if applicable);
- Identification of the beneficiaries and succession of beneficiaries including their name, nationality, date of birth, place of birth and address or if the beneficiary is a body corporate, the name, place of incorporation and commercial licence number.
- Description of the estate to be distributed and the allocation amongst beneficiaries (if applicable); and
- The applicable law: You may select UAE law and add a specific reference to article (17) of Federal Law No. (5) of 1985 on the Civil Transactions Law, by inserting the following paragraph:

*“It is expressly stipulated that this will is in accordance with Article 17 of Federal Law No. (5) of 1985 on the Civil Transactions Law of the United Arab Emirates and the amendments thereto and the substantive provisions governing testamentary disposition and other dispositions taking effect after my death shall be governed in accordance with the provisions of (e.g. this will). Shariah Law shall not apply in any circumstances.”*

### 3. How do I submit a will notarisation request?

- ADGM Courts’ Notary and Wills Office is fully digital. All requests must be submitted via our [eCourts Platform](#).
- For instructions on how to submit your request and the appointment process, please refer to [our website](#).

### 4. What documents do I submit with my will notarisation request?

You must upload the following PDF documents with your request:

- the will with original signatures, translated bilingually into Arabic and English and certified with a translator’s stamp;
- Emirates ID of the Testator, (required for UAE residents only);
- passport of the Testator. For non-UAE residents, a valid UAE visit visa or entry stamp is also required.
- document(s) indicating the ownership of each asset of the estate to be distributed, (applicable only if the assets of the estate are described in detail); and
- a copy of the translator’s card.

### 5. What should I expect with my appointment with the Notary Public?

- A filing fee will be sent via SMS and email and must be paid **prior to the appointment**.
- During the appointment, the Testator:

- must join the virtual meeting at the scheduled time from a location with suitable lighting and reliable internet; and
- have their original Emirates ID with them.
- Immediately following the appointment, the ADJD notarisation fee will be sent via SMS and must be paid to enable the Notary Public to proceed with notarisation of the will.
- The Notary Public will then notarise the will electronically, following which a copy of the notarised will and payment receipts will be sent via SMS.

**6. How can I prove my identity before the Notary Public if I am not a UAE resident and do not hold an Emirates ID?**

The original passport of the Testator will be required.

**7. Can the Notary Public notarise a will over assets:**

- **located outside Abu Dhabi but in the UAE?**

Yes, the Notary Public can notarise a will if the assets are located within the UAE.

- **located outside the UAE?**

Yes, the Notary Public can notarise a will if the assets are located outside the UAE. However, any grant of probate will be made in the jurisdiction in which the assets are located.

**8. Does ADGM Courts' Notary Public and Wills Office provide a probate service?**

No, we **do not** provide a probate service. Probate applications must be registered with the [ADJD's Wills and Probate Office](#).

**9. Do you have a list of law firms who offer will drafting services?**

Yes, our list of firms offering will drafting services can be found on the [Notary Public and Wills Office website](#) under "Templates". We do not recommend any law firm. The list is provided as a resource, not as advice to engage any particular law firm(s).

Firms interested in being included on this list should send their details to [enquiry@adgmcourts.com](mailto:enquiry@adgmcourts.com)