

Press Release

Wills Registry to be managed by Singapore Academy of Law from 4 May 2020

1. From 4 May 2020, the Singapore Academy of Law (“SAL”) will manage the Wills Registry, which is presently under the purview of the Public Trustee’s Office (PTO). The transfer of the registry to SAL is in line with its role as provider of legal information and services, making it more convenient for the legal industry and the public.
2. Charges for services currently offered by the Registry will remain the same. Members of the public who at present have wills information in the Registry need not take any action in relation to this change.
3. However, to facilitate the transfer, the Wills Registry will stop accepting the depositing of wills information between **22 April 2020** and **3 May 2020**. Members of the public who wish to conduct a wills search during this period can do so through the search form from PTO’s website and submitting it through MinLaw’s online enquiry form, available at <https://eservices.mlaw.gov.sg/enquiry/>.
4. SAL will continue to maintain the confidentiality of the information within the Registry, and uphold the existing policy of releasing information only to the testator, the lawyers acting for the testator or the estate of the deceased testator, or the next-of-kin or beneficiary of the deceased testator, when an application to search for wills information is made.
5. Upon the transfer, SAL will initially offer the same services as those presently offered by PTO. However, plans are afoot to provide more comprehensive wills and will-related services to members of the public in future.

6. “The management of the Wills Registry is in line with SAL’s other statutory functions as a trusted custodian of confidential information and documents,” said Ms Serene Wee, Chief Executive of SAL. “Over time, we hope to add on other related functions to the Wills Registry, including a future repository for copies of wills”.

7. Those who wish to deposit or update their wills information from 4 May 2020 can do so by visiting <https://wills.sal.sg>. For more information, the public can contact:
 - SAL at 6332 4388 or email wills@sal.org.sg
 - Ministry of Law at 1800-2255-646529 or online through <https://eservices.mlaw.gov.sg/enquiry/>

Important dates to note:

- From now until **21 April 2020**, you may continue to access the Wills Registry services through PTO’s “E-services” portal via <https://eservices.mlaw.gov.sg/pto/welcome.xhtml>.
- Between **22 April 2020** and **3 May 2020**, please submit your duly completed Wills Search Form and the necessary supporting documents via Contact Us @ OneMinLaw (<https://eservices.mlaw.gov.sg/enquiry/>). Search fees will be waived during this period.
- From **4 May 2020**, the Wills Registry services will be accessible through SAL’s online services via <https://wills.sal.sg>.

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What is the Wills Registry?

The Wills Registry is a confidential digital registry where testators or their solicitors can deposit information on wills. The Registry does not keep digital or actual copies of the will but only information relating to it, such as the particulars of the testator, the custodian of the will, the date the will was made, where the will is kept, and details of the lawyers who drew up the will. This Registry not only provides a place for storing important data, but it also facilitates searches in probate cases to determine whether a will has been made by the deceased, or in general situations where there are question as to the existence of a will or the original will goes missing.

About the Singapore Academy of Law

SAL is a promotion and development agency for Singapore's legal industry. Our vision is to make Singapore the legal hub of Asia. SAL works with our stakeholders to set new precedents of excellence in Singapore law through developing thought leadership, world class infrastructure and legal solutions. Our mandates are to build up the intellectual capital of the legal profession by enhancing legal knowledge, raise the international profile of Singapore law, promote Singapore as a centre for dispute resolution, and improve the standards and efficiency of legal practice through continuing professional development and the use of technology. As a body established by statute, SAL also undertakes statutory functions such as stakeholding services and appointment of Senior Counsel, Commissioners for Oaths and Notaries Public. More information can be found at www.sal.org.sg.