

DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON WILLS  
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ANNEX  
UNIFORM LAW ON THE FORM OF THE INTERNATIONAL WILL

Article 1

1. A will shall be valid as regards form, irrespective particularly of the place where it is made, of the location of the assets and of the nationality, domicile or residence of the testator, if it is made in the form of an international will complying with the provisions set out in articles 2 to 4 hereafter.

2. The invalidity of the will as an international will shall not affect its formal validity as a will of another kind.

Article 1 bis

This law shall not apply to the form of testamentary disposition, made by two or more persons in one document.

Article 2

1. The will shall be made in writing.
2. It need not be written by the testator himself.
3. It may be written in any language, by hand or by any other means.

Article 3

1. The testator shall declare in the presence of two witnesses and of a person authorized to act in connection with international wills that the document is his will and that he knows the contents thereof.

2. The testator need not inform the witnesses, or the authorized person, of the contents of the will.

Article 4

1. In the presence of the witnesses and of the authorized person, the testator shall sign the will or, if he has previously signed it, shall acknowledge his signature.

2. When the testator is unable to sign, he shall state the reason therefor to the authorized person who shall note on the will this declaration. Moreover, the testator may be authorized by the law under which the authorized person was appointed to direct another person to sign on his behalf.

3. The witnesses and the authorized person shall there and then attest the will by signing the document in the presence of the testator.

#### Article 5

1. The signatures shall be placed at the end of the will.

2. If the will consists of several sheets, each sheet shall be signed by the testator or, if he is unable to sign, by the person signing on his behalf or, if there is no such person, by the authorized person. In addition, each sheet shall be numbered.

#### Article 6

1. The date of the will shall be the date of its signature by the authorized person.

2. This date shall be noted at the end of the will by the authorized person.

#### Article 6 bis

In the absence of any mandatory rule pertaining to the safekeeping of the will, the authorized person shall ask the testator whether he wishes to make a declaration concerning the safekeeping of his will. If so and at the express request of the testator the place where he intends to have his will kept shall be mentioned in the certificate provided for in Article 8.

#### Article 7

The authorized person shall add to the will a certificate in the form prescribed in Article 8 establishing that the obligations of this law have been complied with.

#### Article 8

The certificate drawn up by the authorized person shall be completed in the following form or in a substantially similar form:

CERTIFICATE  
(Convention of October 26, 1973)

1. I, . . . . .(name, address and capacity), a person authorized to act in connection with international wills
2. certify that on . . . . . (date) at . . . . . (place)
3. (testator) . . . . .(name, address, date and place of birth) . . . . .  
in my presence and that of the witnesses
4. (a) . . . . .(name, address, date and place of birth) . . . . .  
(b) . . . . .(name, address, date and place of birth) . . . . .  
has declared that the document is his will and that he knows the contents thereof.
5. I furthermore certify that
6. (a) in my presence and in that of the witnesses  
(1) the testator has signed the will or has acknowledged his signature previously affixed.  
(2) following a declaration of the testator stating that he was unable to sign his will for the following reason . . . . .  
-- I have mentioned this fact on the will.  
-- the signature has been affixed on his behalf by . . . . .(name, address) at the direction of the testator.
7. (b) the witnesses and I have signed the will;
8. (c) each page of the will has been signed by . . . . . and numbered;
9. (d) I have satisfied myself as to the identity of the testator and of the witnesses as designated above;
10. (e) the witnesses were competent to act as such according to the law under which I am acting;

11. (f) the testator has requested me to include the following statement concerning the safekeeping of his will:

. . . . .  
. . . . .

12. PLACE

13. DATE

14. SIGNATURE and, if necessary, SEAL

Article 9

The authorized person shall keep a copy of the certificate and deliver another to the testator.

Article 10

In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the certificate of the authorized person shall be conclusive of the formal validity of the instrument as a will under this Law.

Article 11

The absence or irregularity of a certificate shall not affect the formal validity of a will under this Law.

Article 12

The international will shall be subject to the ordinary rules of revocation of wills.

Article 13

In interpreting and applying the provisions of this Law, regard shall be had to its international origin and to the need for uniformity in its interpretation.

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