



Cyprus

## Filing and searching for a will

→ What are the forms of will in Cyprus?

Only one form of will exists, the **will made before witnesses**. It must be signed by the testator and two witnesses.

→ Does a register of wills exist in Cyprus?

**Yes**, there is a register of wills, administered by the registration offices of the local courts. The wills are physically kept in this register. The register is not kept electronically.

### I. Filing of a will

→ Why file a will?

It is not obligatory to file a will with the registration offices. However, **a will which is not found is deemed to be a non-existent will. This is why it is recommended that the will is filed.** In this way, the testator can be sure that his last wishes will be found and therefore respected following his death.

**N.B.**

These questions and answers constitute a general source of information, up to date as of March 19, 2010. In the event of a particular difficulty, consult a lawyer. Pratical sheet realized by ENRWA with the participation of the European Commission and of the Notaries of Europe.



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→ Who can file the will?

The testator can file the will himself or ask his lawyer to do so.

→ How is the filing made?

The registration office shall provide an envelope in which to insert the will. **Information enabling to identify the testator shall be recorded on the envelope.**

→ How much does it cost to file a will?

The cost of filing a will is **6€**.

## II. The search for the wills

→ Who can consult the register of wills?

Following the death of the testator, the family of the deceased may contact the registration offices themselves or through a lawyer. However, only those who can prove a legal interest (heirs, executors, etc.) may consult the register.

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This consultation is not obligatory but it is however recommended because it ensures that the last wishes of the testator are respected.

→ Is it necessary to provide a death certificate?

Yes, the family of the deceased (or the lawyer representing them) must provide a death certificate in order to be able to carry out a search. This measure enables to ensure that the existence of the will remains secret throughout the testator's life.

→ How much does a search cost?

The cost of a search is 2€.

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