



Belgium

## Registering and searching for a will

→ What are the different types of will in Belgium?

- \* the **notarial will**, drawn up by a notary.
- \* the **holographic will**, written, dated and signed by the testator.
- \* the **international will**, written, dated and signed by the testator in the presence of two witnesses and a notary.

→ Does a register of wills exist in Belgium?

**Yes**, there is a central register of wills (CRT) managed by the Royal Federation of Belgian Notaries (FEDNOT). The register is kept in electronic form.

The CRT is interconnected with its European counterparts, i.e. a search in the register of another State can be carried out electronically by a Belgian notary.

In addition to the data of the wills, this register also records the data of all general and specific inheritance agreements.

### **Important**

These questions and answers are a source of general information, current as of 1 January 2022. In the event of particular difficulty, consult a notary. This practical sheet has been produced by ENRWA with the participation of the European Commission and the Notaries of Europe.



Belgium

## I. Registering a will

### → Why register a will?

Not all wills have to be registered (for example, a holographic will may be kept at home). However, **if a will is not found, it is equivalent to a non-existent will.**

That is why **it is advisable to enter each will in the register.** The testator can then be certain that his/her last wishes will be found and thus respected upon his/her death.

### → Who can perform the registration?

The notary registers the wills. Indeed, although it is possible to draw up a will on your own, the help of a notary will be particularly valuable given that they are specialists in the field of asset transfer. A notary's advice will enable a will to be drawn up that complies with the law and will therefore not risk being annulled.

**It is not the content of the will that is recorded in the register but, rather, information that enables it to be found.**

### → Who keeps the will?

The notary is responsible for keeping notarial and international wills, and holographic wills entrusted to him/her by the testator.

### **Important**

These questions and answers are a source of general information, current as of 1 January 2022. In the event of particular difficulty, consult a notary. This practical sheet has been produced by ENRWA with the participation of the European Commission and the Notaries of Europe.



## Belgium

### → How much does it cost to register a will?

The registration of a will in the CRT costs **€15.00 (+ VAT)**.

## II. The search for a will

### → Who can search the register of wills, and when?

**The existence of the will and its contents will remain secret throughout the lifetime of the testator.**

Upon the death of the testator, any interested person may consult the register of wills themselves or through a legal professional (notary, judge, lawyer). **This search is essential** in order to ensure that the last wishes of the testator are respected.

### → Is it compulsory to provide a death certificate?

**Yes, the interested party will need to provide a death certificate in order to conduct a search.** This measure ensures that the existence of the will remains secret during the testator's lifetime.

#### **Important**

These questions and answers are a source of general information, current as of 1 January 2022. In the event of particular difficulty, consult a notary. This practical sheet has been produced by ENRWA with the participation of the European Commission and the Notaries of Europe.



## Belgium

→ How much does a search cost?

A search in the Belgian CRT is **free of charge**, as is a correction or deletion of data from an existing registration.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Important**

These questions and answers are a source of general information, current as of 1 January 2022. In the event of particular difficulty, consult a notary. This practical sheet has been produced by ENRWA with the participation of the European Commission and the Notaries of Europe.