Wills & Inheritance

A practical overview of **succession planning in the UAE**: wills, inheritance, guardianship, probate, and estate administration.

CORE AREAS

DEFAULT INHERITANCE

Without a registered will, UAE inheritance rules may determine how assets are distributed. For Muslims, Sharia inheritance principles generally apply, while non-Muslims may have civil-law options to choose their beneficiaries.

DIFC WILLS

DIFC Wills are available to eligible non-Muslims and are registered through the DIFC Courts Wills Service. They can cover asset distribution and guardianship of minor children, in accordance with the instructions in the registered will.

ADJD WILLS

ADJD Wills are registered through the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department and may be available to Muslims and non-Muslims. They can be used for estate planning, asset distribution, and guardianship, subject to eligibility and registry requirements.

PROBATE

After death, UAE assets may be frozen until the lawful heirs, beneficiaries, or executors are confirmed. Probate may involve courts, banks, land departments, company registries, free zones, insurers, and other authorities.

KEY CONCEPTS

WHAT A WILL COVERS

A will can address real estate, bank accounts, company shares, personal property, business interests, digital assets, and guardianship of minor children. Asset scope should be confirmed based on the registry, will type, and location of the assets.

REGISTRATION OPTIONS

- DIFC Wills can only be used by non-Muslim expatriates.
- ADJD Wills offer another UAE registration route.
- Both spouses should usually register separate wills.
- Wills should be reviewed after marriage, divorce, childbirth, relocation, or major asset changes.

Looking to protect your family's future?

Our team can guide you through wills, inheritance planning, guardianship, and estate administration.

BOOK A CONSULTATION ↗

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