

**Register to participate in
National Wills Week -
Registration deadline: 15 June
2016**



ADVISORY FROM THE LAW SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Colleagues

National Wills Week has become one of the most important access-to-justice outreach initiatives by the attorneys' profession. Not only do attorneys provide members of the public with free basic wills and inform the public of the importance of having a will, the initiative also highlights the importance of having a will drafted by a professional, properly qualified attorney.

National Wills Week will be held from 12 to 16 September this year. As in the past, we anticipate that more than a thousand attorneys' firms will participate by giving generously of their time and skills. Wills Week has also attracted increasing positive media coverage for the profession.

**[Register
online here](#)**

We urge you to consider participating in this year's National Wills Week and to register today if you have not already done so.

The deadline for participation is Wednesday, 15 June 2016, so please [register online here](#).

If you have already registered, thank you!

The aim of the Wills Week campaign is twofold:

- to position attorneys as the premier providers of will and estates services to the public, and to improve the image of the profession generally; and
- to encourage members of the public who would not normally make use of the services of an attorney, or who may hesitate to approach an attorney, to consult an attorney to draft a basic will.

[Read more about National Wills Week here.](#)

How does Wills Week work?

The Law Society of South Africa will coordinate the printing of posters centrally. During July, your provincial law society will provide your firm with free trilingual posters in the language combination of your choice to publicise your participation. Provision is made on the posters for your firm's logo and contact details.

[Click here to view the posters.](#)

- PDF versions of posters can be provided so that your firm can use these electronically – for PDF posters please e-mail LSSA@LSSA.org.za
- An infographic is available for use by participating attorneys and for public information (this will be available in the various languages by the end of June). [Click here to view the infographic.](#)
- Firms will be listed as participating firms [on the LSSA website](#) as well as with the provincial law societies.
- A national media campaign will be launched in late July and early in August. All media and publicity material will invite members of the public to consult the LSSA/provincial law societies' websites or call the relevant provincial law society for the contact details of participating firms. In order for your contact details to be included timeously on the website, you need to register by 15 June 2016.

What is expected from participating firms?

- Basic wills will be drawn up free of charge.
- Attorneys should provide an explanation of the importance of having a legal will to the client.
- Attorneys may not insist that they are appointed as the executor of the estate.
- Attorneys must give the client a copy of his/her will.

- Interviews with clients should be conducted at the attorney's offices.
- Attorneys will not be expected to redraft or amend existing wills for free, nor will they be expected to draft complex wills involving trusts, etc. This should be made clear to the client when an appointment is made.
- Parastatals, companies, municipalities or public libraries wishing to arrange special will-drafting services for their members/staff will be given the list of participating firms in their areas.

National Wills Week is a joint initiative of the LSSA and its six constituent members, the Black Lawyers Association, the Cape Law Society, the KwaZulu-Natal Law Society, the Law Society of the Free State, the Law Society of the Northern Provinces and the National Association of Democratic Lawyers.

Kind regards

MVUSO NOTYESI and **JAN VAN RENSBURG**
CO-CHAIRPERSONS
LAW SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

13 June 2016

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