

NEWS RELEASE

October 1 to 7, 2023 is Make a Will Week

VANCOUVER, September 28, 2023 – A will is one of the most important documents you can have to ensure that your wishes are carried out after you are gone. Making a will can help address unique scenarios and complexities with your assets and can decrease the cost of administering your estate. In British Columbia, the [Wills, Estates and Succession Act](#) determines how your estate is distributed if you do not have a will. Where there is no next of kin willing or able to handle this responsibility, the Public Guardian and Trustee [may administer the estate](#).

Make a Will Week in British Columbia provides an opportunity for British Columbians who do not have a legal will to write their will, and for those who already have a will to update their existing will.

Depending on how complicated your situation is, there are many methods you can use to write your will. However, it is always a good idea to get the help of a professional in order to avoid future legal issues.

With the passage of [Bill 21](#) on December 1, 2021, residents of British Columbia can now sign and store wills electronically.

For more information on how to prepare your will, visit [Make a Will Week](#).

About the Public Guardian and Trustee

The Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) is a corporation sole established under the Public Guardian and Trustee Act with a unique statutory role to protect the interests of British Columbians who lack legal capacity to protect their own interests. The mandate of the PGT is to:

- Protect the legal and financial interests of children under the age of 19 years;
- Protect the legal, financial, personal and health care interests of adults who require assistance in decision making; and
- Administer the estates of deceased and missing persons.

During 2021-2022, the PGT served 26,675 clients and administered \$1.3 billion of client trust assets.

For more information about the PGT, visit www.trustee.bc.ca.

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