

NEWS RELEASE

October 2 – 8, 2022 is Make a Will Week

VANCOUVER, September 28, 2022 – October 2 to 8, 2022 is Make a Will Week in British Columbia (B.C.). This week serves as a reminder for British Columbians to make a will or update their existing wills.

Wills are important because they ensure that a person's end of life wishes for their estate are carried out.

When a person dies without a will, B.C.'s Wills, Estates and Succession Act (WESA) establishes the people who have a right to administer the estate. Where there is no next of kin willing or able to handle this responsibility, the Public Guardian and Trustee [may administer the estate](#).

[Updates to WESA in December 2021](#) made B.C. the first province to recognize electronic wills. These updates allow for electronic signing, video witnessing and digital storage of your will. As with any will, an individual should ensure that their electronic will is easy to find by providing clear instructions to those they trust (including the executor) about where their electronic will is located and how it can be accessed.

The cost for making a will depends on the complexity of your circumstance and it is always a good idea to get the advice of a professional.

Anyone interested in making an electronic will is encouraged to seek legal advice from a professional familiar with the 2021 changes to WESA.

For more information about will making, 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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