



Wills Act 1837

1837 CHAPTER 26 7 Will 4 and 1 Vict

[^{F1}9] **Signing and attestation of wills**

[No will shall be valid unless—

- ^{F2}(1) (a) it is in writing, and signed by the testator, or by some other person in his presence and by his direction; and
- (b) it appears that the testator intended by his signature to give effect to the will; and
- (c) the signature is made or acknowledged by the testator in the presence of two or more witnesses present at the same time; and
- (d) each witness either—
- (i) attests and signs the will; or
 - (ii) acknowledges his signature,
- in the presence of the testator (but not necessarily in the presence of any other witness),

but no form of attestation shall be necessary.

[For the purposes of paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (1), in relation to wills made ^{F3}(2) on or after 31 January 2020 and on or before 31 January [^{F4}2024], “presence” includes presence by means of videoconference or other visual transmission.]]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 9 substituted by [Administration of Justice Act 1982 \(c. 53, SIF 116:5\)](#), **ss. 17, 73(6)**
- F2** S. 9 renumbered as s. 9(1) (28.9.2020) by virtue of [The Wills Act 1837 \(Electronic Communications\) \(Amendment\) \(Coronavirus\) Order 2020 \(S.I. 2020/952\)](#), arts. 1, **2(2)** (with art. 3)
- F3** S. 9(2) inserted (28.9.2020) by [The Wills Act 1837 \(Electronic Communications\) \(Amendment\) \(Coronavirus\) Order 2020 \(S.I. 2020/952\)](#), arts. 1, **2(3)** (with art. 3)
- F4** Word in s. 9(2) substituted (1.2.2022) by [The Wills Act 1837 \(Electronic Communications\) \(Amendment\) Order 2022 \(S.I. 2022/18\)](#), arts. 1, **2(2)**

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Wills Act 1837, Section 9.