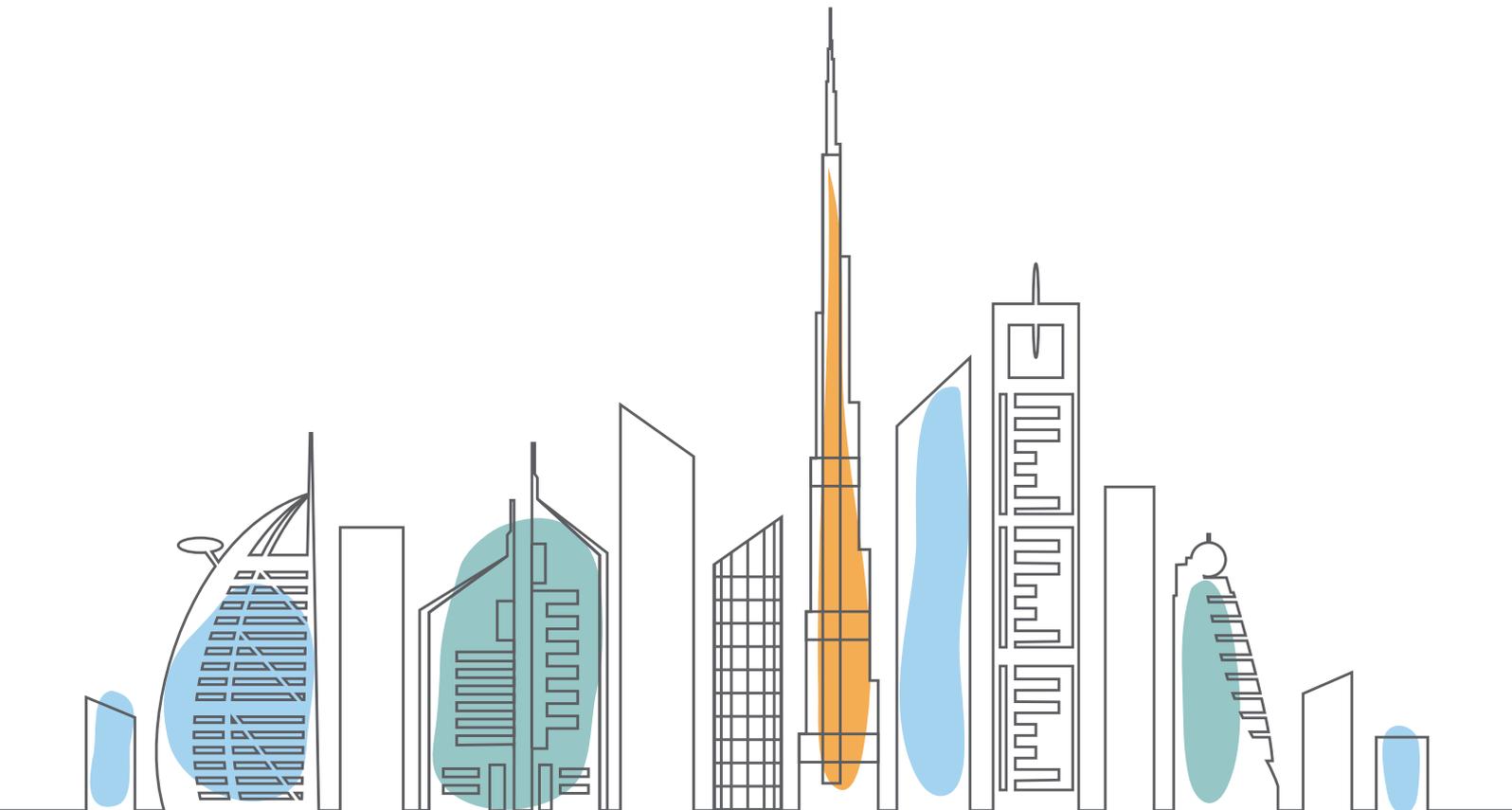


Wills and succession planning at home and abroad

Services for British expats living and working in Dubai



Many of our clients have assets in multiple jurisdictions and complex business structures, high value real estate or other assets.

This necessitates careful and coordinated estate planning and advice. Being the first UK based law firm able to register Wills in Dubai for non-Muslims, we are uniquely placed to advise the British expat community living and working in Dubai to ensure the right legal steps are taken in relation to their asset distribution and Will drafting, whether located in the UK and/or Dubai.

The Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) and the Wills and Probate Registry

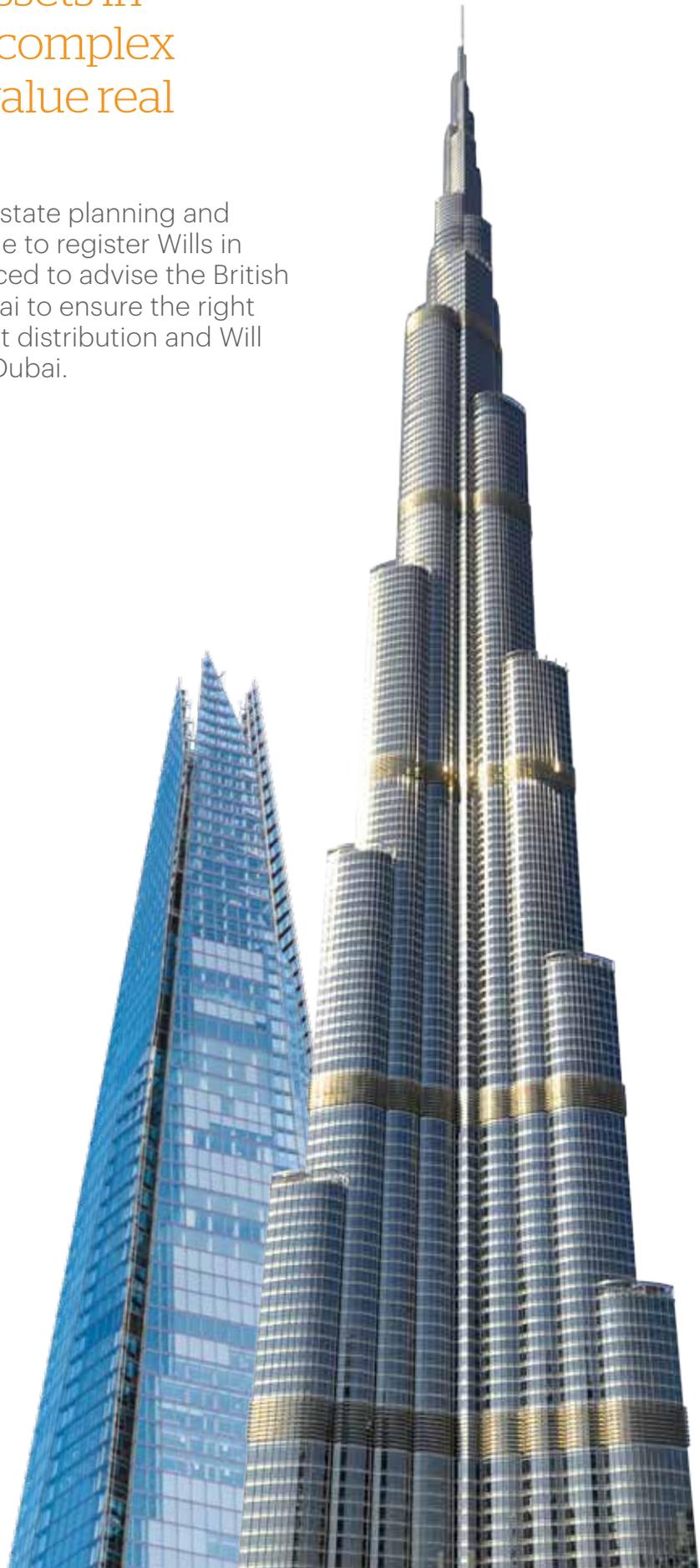
The DIFC established a Wills and Probate Registry (WPR) in May 2015. As a result, any non-Muslim with assets in Dubai can now execute and register a Will in English under the jurisdiction of the DIFC courts.

The key requirements are that:

- The individual is not a Muslim;
- The individual is over 21 years of age;
- The Will only covers assets situated in Dubai; and
- The Will is executed in accordance with DIFC requirements.

The DIFC rules broadly follow UK law and practice and create legal certainty for the inheritance of an individual's assets after death and the appointment of Guardians for their children. This not only allows individuals to have testamentary freedom to dispose of their assets as they wish, it also provides peace of mind that an individual's estate will be distributed according to their wishes.

Upon the Testator's death, the Executors will apply to the DIFC WPR for a grant of probate. As the grant is issued by the DIFC court, it will be directly enforceable in Dubai without the uncertainty and need to go through the Dubai courts. The new DIFC WPR is a great option for non-Muslim expats to ensure their Dubai property passes to their chosen heirs as per their wishes and therefore avoids the application of Sharia forced heirship provisions. Since its launch in May 2015, over 1,000 Wills were registered by the end of 2016 and 20% of those are by British expats.



Process and steps to register a DIFC Will

- Ascertain whether a DIFC Will is needed and how it should be drawn up
- Once the Will has been finalised, attend appointment with the WPR to go through the Will. At this meeting, you will need to bring the Will for signing and ID documents
- The WPR Registrar will go through and read out the Will to you to ensure you understand its contents
- After signing the Will, the Registrar will keep the original Will and a copy will be provided to you

While the process is relatively straight-forward, your Will represents a valuable and important legal document and it is advisable to seek licensed legal advice to assist in the drafting of your Will and to guide you through the process.

What a DIFC Will won't cover

Although the DIFC Will covers assets held in Dubai, it will not cover assets held anywhere else in the UAE, the UK or anywhere else in the world. If a non-Muslim person, for example, has assets in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and the UK, it may well be that a separate Will in each of those jurisdictions will be needed.

Without a UK Will, a British expat could face their UK-situated assets being distributed in accordance with UK intestacy rules rather than their intended wishes. It is therefore imperative to take advice and consider having separate Wills in place to deal with UK assets and Dubai assets as a UK Will cannot deal with Dubai assets and vice versa.

Our services for British expats in Dubai

Kingsley Napley is an internationally recognised law firm based in central London. Our wide range of expertise enables us to provide support for our clients in all areas of their business and private lives. Much of our work involves international considerations, whether our clients or their partners live and/or hold assets abroad.

Matthew Duncan, Head of Private Client at Kingsley Napley, is a registered Wills Draftsman with the WPR and therefore authorised to draft and advise on the production of DIFC compliant Wills and he can take you step by step through the process to ensure your Will is compliant with the DIFC regulations. As English lawyers, our Private Client team can also advise in relation to your UK assets and ensure that assets located in the UK are dealt with and dovetail appropriately with your Dubai Will or other Wills you may have in other jurisdictions.

We are also able to offer a wider support to British expats living in Dubai and the UAE, including providing advice on family law, e.g. prenuptial agreements, divorce and children proceedings, and immigration law issues among others. A number of partners at Kingsley Napley frequently travel to Dubai to support clients and meet with experts and professional advisors.

The cost of Dubai and UK Wills

The fees vary depending on the type of Will you require. The DIFC WPR registration fees and approximate fees for our services are set out below.

Type of Will	DIFC registration fee	Approximate fees for preparing a Dubai Will*	Approximate fees for preparing both Dubai and UK Wills*
Single Will	AED 10,000	£1,000	£1,250
Mirror Wills (for couples)	AED 15,000	£1,250	£1,500

*Excluding VAT

To find out more about Dubai Wills and our services for British expats in Dubai, please contact Matthew Duncan or a member of our team.



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Kingsley Napley is an internationally recognised law firm based in central London. Our wide range of expertise means that we can provide support for our clients in all areas of their business and private life. Many of our lawyers are leaders in their field and our practice areas are highly ranked by the legal directories.

We are known for combining creative solutions with pragmatism and a friendly, sensitive approach. The relationship between lawyer and client is key. We work hard to match clients with lawyers who have the right mix of skills, experience and approach in order to achieve the best possible outcome.