

# National Wills Week: CONCEPT NOTE



**the doj & cd**

Department:  
Justice and Constitutional Development  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE

# The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated the lives of too many South Africans.

## **THE INFECTION RATE CONTINUES TO GROW DAILY, ALTHOUGH IN RECENT DAYS AT A LOWER RATE.**

Between 22 August and 4 September 2020, the health department recorded 29 839 new cases of COVID-19 in the country and the cumulative total of confirmed cases in South Africa now stands at 636,884. The department reported a further 101 COVID-19 related deaths for the 24 hour period ending on September 5, bringing the number of total deaths to 14,779.

These are all direct deaths related to COVID-19, and the deaths and illnesses will continue as the country struggles to deal with the consequences of COVID-19. These consequences relate to the continued increase of GBV and femicide, the unpaid care burdens of women and related mental, health and psychological traumas, the unequal socio-economic services which impacts on the poor and working class to access health and care services, the impact of loss of work and the economic impact of COVID-19. All these consequences severely impact on the livelihood of people. The reality is that Covid-related death has become a reality for many persons living in South Africans during the pandemic and many do not have a will, or understand the consequences and the importance of having a will.

In addition, South Africa's legal framework relating to succession as well as relationships, remains discriminatory to women and in particular, black women in the country. The impact of the non regulation of all forms of relationships has a direct impact on the dissolution of estates after death and this impacts primarily on women.

Women continue to be more disproportionately affected by COVID-19 in terms of the rates of infection where stats show that far more women are being infected than men. Women continue to be on the frontline of fighting the virus in our healthcare system.

## **THIS YEAR NATIONAL WILLS WEEK WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 26-30 OCTOBER 2020 AND LEGAL PRACTITIONERS WILL BE CALLED UPON TO PROVIDE FREE LEGAL ADVICE AND FREE DRAFTING OF WILLS.**

It is important that practitioners understand the challenges relating to the non-recognition of relationships and the challenges faced by communities during COVID-19 and how it impacts on succession and estate planning.

The Women's Legal Centre, in partnership with South African Women in Dialogue, the Law Society of South Africa, The Black Lawyers Association, the National Association of Democratic Lawyers and Legal Aid South Africa, the South African Women Lawyers Association, The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, and Sister In Law will be embarking on a broad advocacy, awareness and information campaign during the months of September and October leading up to National Wills Week.

We will be calling upon, and supporting the call of the LSSA to legal practitioners to register and provide free legal services during wills week. We will be hosting a webinar to legal practitioners, discussing the impact of the non-recognition of relationships on estate and succession planning, and the impact of housing policies on the dissolution of immovable property and access to housing. The webinar aims to make legal practitioners aware of the challenges facing women and children.

Information sessions will be conducted on testate and intestate succession, how to draft a will and what spouses can or should do if their relationship is not recognised by law.

# ACTIVITIES



## 01 | WEBINAR

### **TESTATE AND INTESTATE SUCCESSION:**

Challenges faced during COVID

### **SPEAKERS:**

**South African Women in Dialogue member -**  
Thoko Mpumlwana

**Law Society Of South Africa -**  
Mabeang Denise Lenyai

**Legal Aid South Africa -**  
Rene Carstens

**Women's Legal Centre -**  
Charlene May

**National Association of Democratic Lawyers -**  
Pumza Malefane

**South African Women Lawyers Association -**  
Keneilwe Mabapa

**The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development -**  
The Master's Office Patrys Venter

**Sister In Law -**  
Kholofelo Sekele

**Black Lawyers Association -**  
Loleah Mamabolo

### **VIDEO INPUT BY VOICES FROM THE GROUND:**

Sizani Ngubane

Sheila Sisulu

Norma Mbele

Sharon Nthabiseng Malefane

### **INTRODUCTION & FACILITATOR:**

Seehaam Samaai  
(Women's Legal Centre)

### **VOTE OF THANKS ON ALL SESSIONS:**

The Women's Legal Centre

### **AUDIENCE:**

Legal practitioners, professionals  
working with Communities, Advice offices

### **DATE:**

Tuesday, 29 September

### **TIME:**

11 AM - 1 PM

### **TOPICS:**

COVID-19 & LOCKDOWN -  
Implications relating to Testate  
and Intestate Succession

### **TECHNICAL HOST:**

National Association of  
Democratic Lawyers

### **ZOOM REGISTRATION LINK:**

[Click here](#)



## 02

### INFORMATION SESSIONS

Legal Aid SA will provide advice after all the sessions

#### WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION & FACILITATION - THE BLACK LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

**AUDIENCE:** Community    **DATE :** 8 October 2020    **FORMAT:** Presentation

**TOPICS:**  
Testate Succession & Different Types Of Wills

**TIME:**  
11 am - 12:30 pm (1 hour presentation and 30 min legal advice after webinar )

**SPEAKER:** Penelope Roberts, The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development

**ZOOM REGISTRATION LINK:**

[Click here](#)

#### WEEK 2: INTRODUCTION & FACILITATION - NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS

**AUDIENCE:** Community    **DATE :** 15 October 2020    **FORMAT:** Presentation

**TOPICS:**  
Intestate Succession & What Happens To Your Estate

**TIME:**  
11 am - 12:30 pm (1 hour presentation and 30 min legal advice after webinar )

**SPEAKER:** Wendy Sithole, The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development

**ZOOM REGISTRATION LINK:**

[Click here](#)

#### WEEK 3: INTRODUCTION & FACILITATION - SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

**AUDIENCE:** Community    **DATE :** 22 October 2020    **FORMAT:** Presentation

**TOPICS:**  
How To Draft A Will & Where To Find Assistance

**TIME:**  
11 am - 12:30 pm (1 hour presentation and 30 min legal advice after webinar )

**SPEAKER:**  
Kholofelo Sekele, Sister In Law

**ZOOM REGISTRATION LINK:**

[Click here](#)

#### WEEK 4: INTRODUCTION & FACILITATION - LEGAL AID SOUTH AFRICA & THE BLACK LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

**AUDIENCE:** Community    **DATE :** 15 October 2020    **FORMAT:** Presentation

**TOPICS:**  
The Guardian's Fund And How To Access It

**TIME:**  
Time: 11 am - 12:30 pm (1 hour presentation and 30 min legal advice after webinar )

**SPEAKER:** Thembela Van Der Berg, Legal Aid South Africa East London Local Office  
TBC - The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development

**ZOOM REGISTRATION LINK:**

[Click here](#)



## 03

### INFORMATION PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

**JOINT ADVERTISING RADIO INTERVIEWS WITH COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS FROM 8 SEPTEMBER - 30 OCTOBER**

## 04

### NATIONAL WILLS WEEK



26 - 30 OCTOBER 2020

**TO HAVE A WILL DRAWN UP FREE OF CHARGE,**  
you may contact Law Society Of South Africa by e-mailing [lssa@lssa.org.za](mailto:lssa@lssa.org.za)

## **MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

### ***Organisational Contacts:***

#### **South African Women In Dialogue –**

Marthe Muller - 072 245 0642

#### **Women’s Legal Centre –**

Seehaam Samaai - 083 384 3448

#### **National Association of Democratic Lawyers -**

Nolitha Jali - 071 689 3705

#### **The Black Lawyers Association-**

Loleah Mamabolo - 072 203 6363

#### **The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development –**

Priscilla Matsapola - 076 573 8082

#### **Law Society Of South Africa -**

Nomfundo Jele – 072 4402 6344

#### **South African Women Lawyers Association-**

Mpho Kgabi - 079 505 3755

#### **Sister in Law -**

Kholofelo Sekele - 071 672 8484