

Making a Will for foreigners in Japan

The Will in Japan for foreigners can only include the "Assets in Japan".

Please note if the heirs are both in Japan and overseas, that's fine. However, depending on the relationship and nationality, the documents from heirs may vary.

The number of interactions with the Public Notary Office (PNO) required is three times or more in making the will in Japan. First, the draft prepared by an attorney will be reviewed by PNO. The PNO may recommend changes in language if they feel; after that PNO shall review the second/final draft. Finally, with the pre-approved Will content, the applicant must visit the PNO office with the attorney and witnesses. In case of language issues, an interpreter shall be required to visit with the applicant.

Documents required from the person making a Will in Japan

Personal seal (Inkan) certificate	1 original
Resident certificate (Jūmin-hyō)	1 original
Passport ID pages	Copy
Resident Card (both sides)	Copy

Documents concerning Assets in Japan

Documents concerning Assets in Japan	Copy of the docs
Ownership / shareholding in a company in Japan	Shareholders register
Personal bank accounts in Japan	Latest statement or passbook copy
Real estate ownership	Real estate Registry copy
Stocks	Stock certificate copy

Documents required from the persons in the Will who will inherit the assets.

Resident certificate (Jūmin-hyō) or Resident Card (both sides)	Copy
In case of persons living overseas	
Passport ID pages	Copy
Driving license	Copy
Signature certificate (Duly notarized)	Original
Affidavit (Duly notarized) **	Original
** Required depending on the case	

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