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Title of Article: ‘Development of Formal Requirements for Wills: Towards a Change for Better Will’

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Abstract: Formal Wills are defined by statute because statutorily specified formal features are needed to give them validity. The features which include writing and proper execution were not all conceived simultaneously with the notion of testamentary disposition as we have them today. The statutory journey of these features may have begun before the birth of Wills under the 1837 Wills Statute of England. This article traces the use of formal features in testamentary disposition to meet the yearnings of persons who desired their last wishes to be honoured. Change, which is a prevalent feature in the development of Wills, appears to be undermined after the Wills Act despite the shortfalls in the application of the statutory requirements. This paper analyses the subject and notes that formal features can be made self-proven and all-encompassing when communicated through technological means. The paper asserts that change in the direction of technology is required for Wills made under digital era. It proposes the incorporation of technological changes into Wills and recommends amendments to the provisions on the Wills law to include the use of technological devices in communicating Wills.

Keywords: Formal Wills; Formal features; Instruments of testamentary disposition; Technological Changes.