

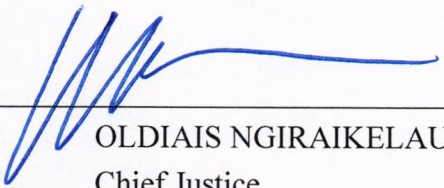
**IN THE
UNIFIED PALAU JUDICIARY
REPUBLIC OF PALAU**

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE	:	ADMINISTRATIVE
ON THE COURT'S RETENTION	:	DIRECTIVE NO. 26-002
OF WILLS AND RELATED ESTATE	:	
PLANNING DOCUMENTS	:	

The Clerk of Courts, the Administrative Director, and other Judiciary staff have brought to the administration's attention that the Clerk of Court's is continuing to act as a repository for wills and related estate documents. The Clerk of Courts is charged by law with recording births and deaths. 34 PNC § 4003. However, there is no provision requiring the Clerk of Courts to act as repository for wills and other related estate documents.

- 1) Effective immediately, the Clerk of Courts shall no longer serve as a repository for wills or other estate planning documents.
- 2) Any wills or related estate documents currently in the possession of the Clerk of Courts shall be retained until one of the following occurs:
 - (a) The documents are claimed by the testator or the testator's estate; or
 - (b) The Clerk of Courts can determine the current address of the testator, assuming the testator is still alive, and return the document(s) to the testator.
- 3) Beginning on the date this Administrative Directive is signed, whenever a will or other related estate document is returned, the Clerk of Courts is directed to record the date and the method of return. If the document is claimed by the testator, the Clerk of Courts may require the testator's signature acknowledging return of the document.

This policy is promulgated and approved this 4th day of August 2026 under the authority of the Chief Justice as the Administrative Head of the Judiciary pursuant to Article X, Section 12 of the Palau Constitution.



OLDIAIS NGIRAIKELAU
Chief Justice