

Facilitating digital tools for judicial decisions

Belgium

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Belgium

The implementing of a new legislation

Belgian incapacity law

With a big workload for the judge
of the peace

80.000 running files

Over 187 justices of the
peace
200 judges 1000 clerks and
assistants

17 March 2013 new incapacity law

231 articles

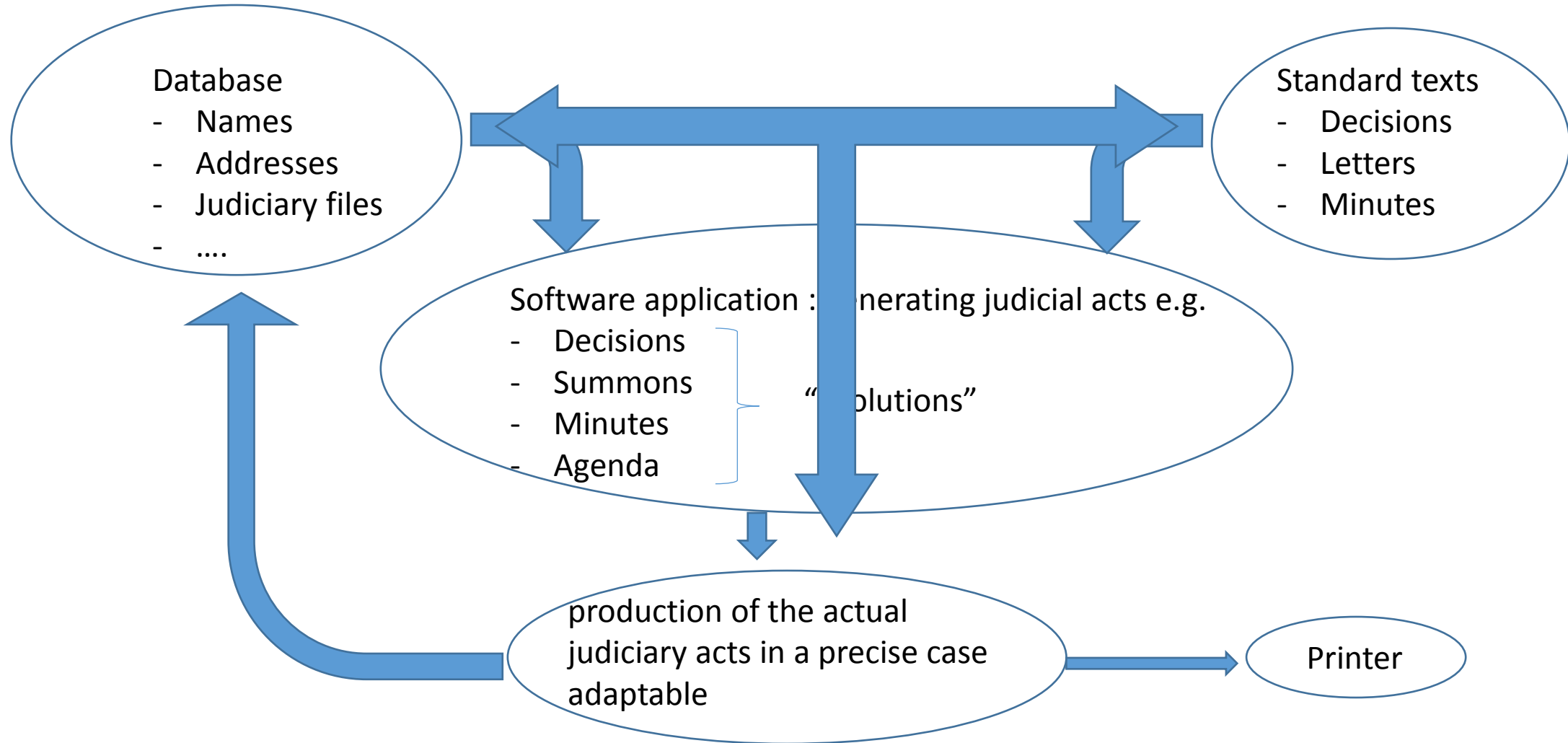
4 statuses

5 proceedings

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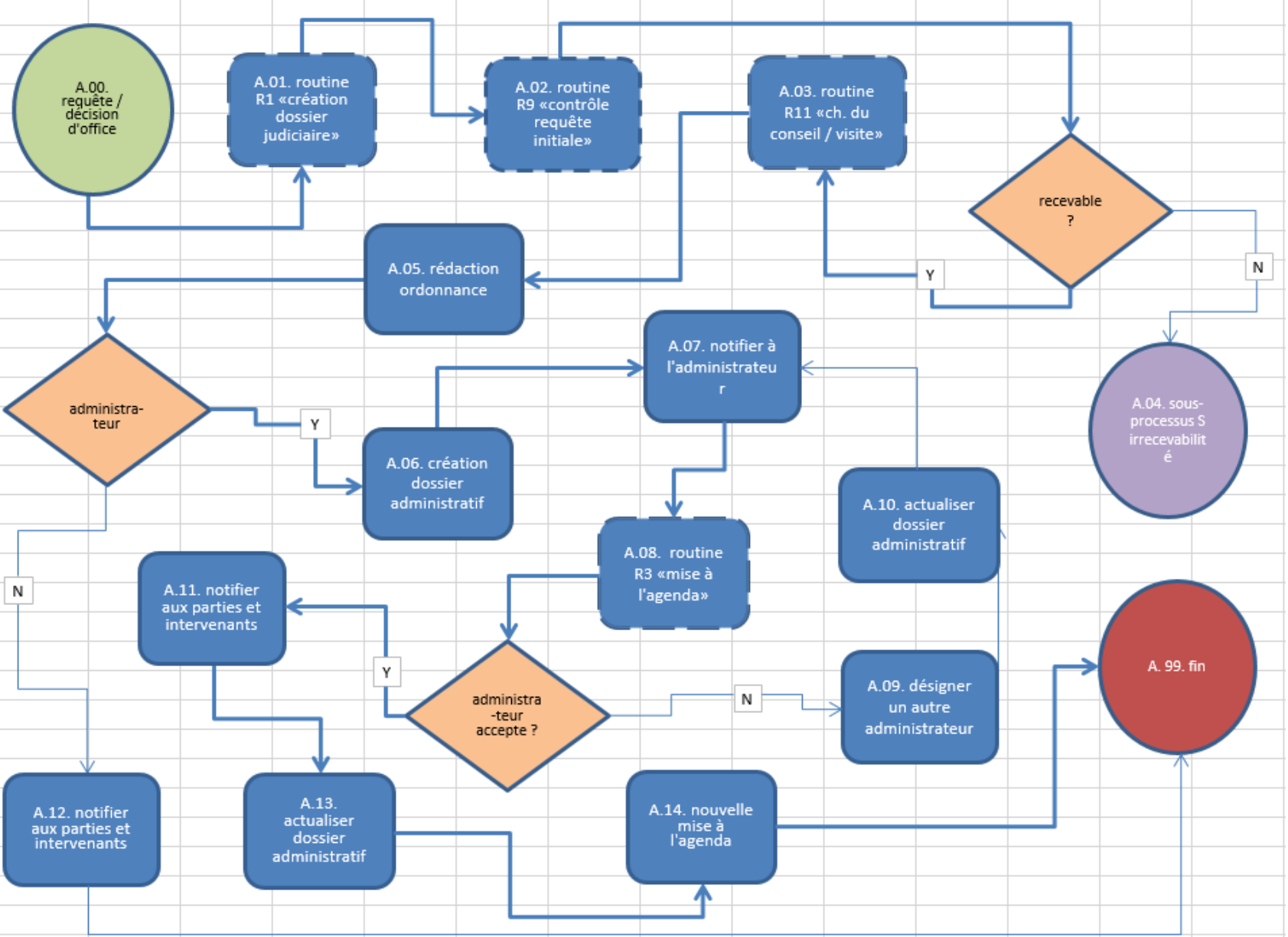
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Functioning principles of the current software in the justices of the peace in Belgium

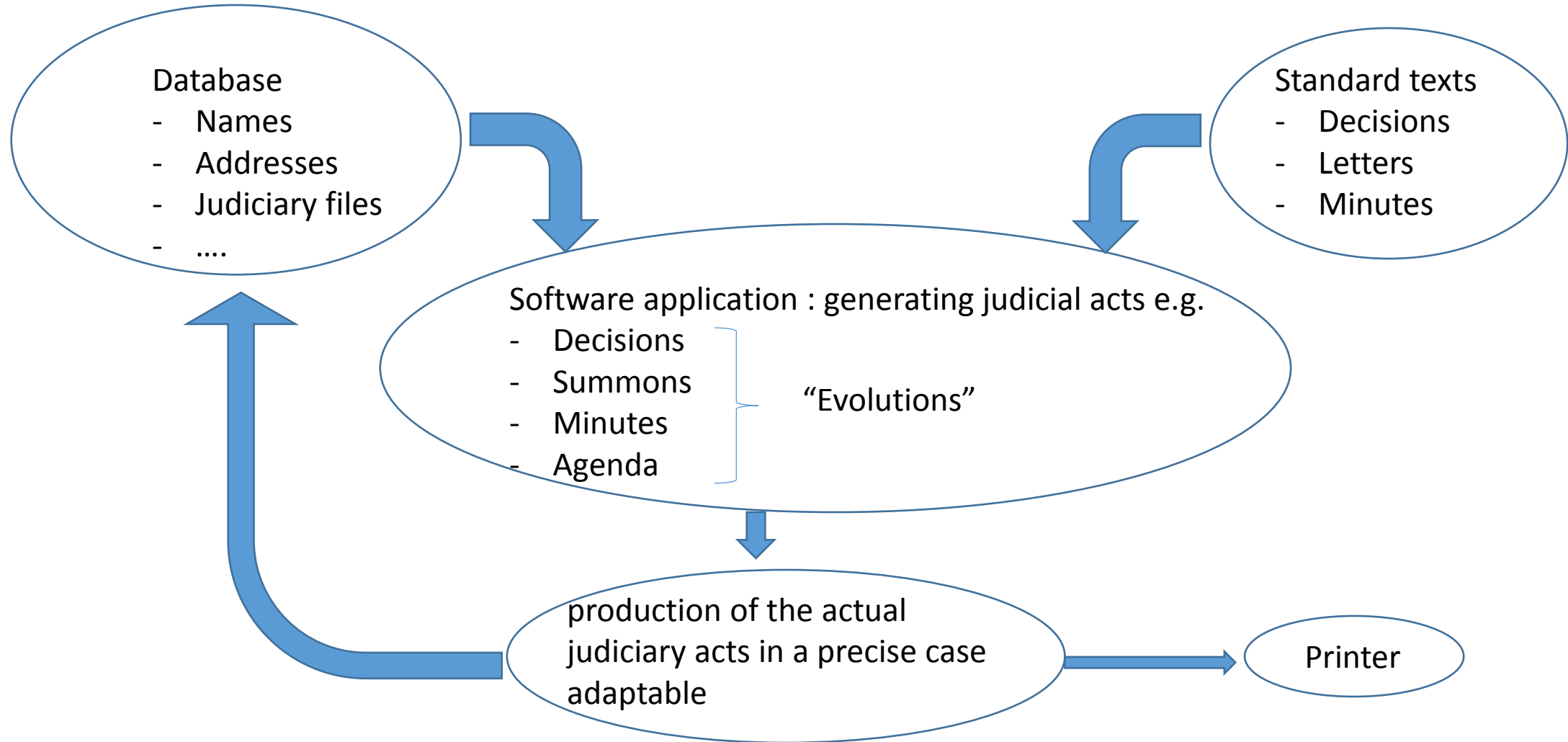


Description in BPMN

Example of one of the proceedings



Functioning principles of the current software in the justices of the peace in Belgium



Advantages of this computerised approach for time management

- The automated production of judicial acts
 - Merging of standard texts with database
 - Recording of produced acts in the database
- Through the software application, an easier implementation of a complicated law
 - Once a judicial act is chosen, the normal following steps (summons, minutes, reminders...) are automatically produced
- A uniformity of the implementation of the new law
 - Procedures
 - Standard text
- A uniformity of the registration of the handlings
 - Better measurement of workload.
 - Better repartition of the available resources

Difficulties of this computerised approach

- Necessity of getting people of different horizons work together
 - Judges
 - Clerks
 - Administration
 - Software specialists
- Need of skills which are not necessarily available in the judiciary
- Much time is needed of judicial personnel for the work that cannot be outsourced
 - Defining the needs in terms of judiciary procedures
 - Writing of standard texts
 - Knowledge of the existing systems
- Convincing the judiciary to work with non-judicial methods
 - BPMN
 - Computer applications

Risks of this computerised approach

- Standard decisions instead of real “custom” judgements
- Procedures and decisions controlled by managers and not by judges
- How to control these risks
 - Implication of judges and clerks
 - Possibility to change the standard procedures and texts
 - More time for special cases and real decision making

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