

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Michael L. Buck
Probate Judge



Avery D. Rose
Probate Register
Court Administrator

Jennifer Callaway
Deputy Register

Jennifer White
Deputy Register

ALLEGAN COUNTY PROBATE COURT

Instructions for Small Estates

When a decedent's estate is small enough, Michigan law (MCL 700.3982) allows the estate to be probated using an expedited process that does not require the appointment of a personal representative, takes no notice of any will, and results in a Court Order assigning assets. However, this expedited process includes several requirements:

1. You must fill out a Petition and Order for Assignment. There is a \$25 filing fee, a \$12 certified copy fee for your certified copy of the Order, and a statutorily-mandated inventory fee based on the value of the estate. Checks should be made payable to the Allegan County Probate Court.
2. The decedent must have been either an Allegan County resident, or a non-resident of Michigan who left property in Allegan County.
3. The total value of the estate, subtracting any funeral and burial expenses which are either unpaid or were paid by someone other than the decedent after the decedent's death, is under a maximum amount dictated by state statute. This amount is adjusted for cost-of-living based on the year of death as follows:

Date of Death	Amount
Before January 1, 2001	\$15,000.00
2001	\$16,000.00
2002-2004	\$17,000.00
2005-2006	\$18,000.00
2007-2008	\$19,000.00
2009-2011	\$20,000.00
2012-2013	\$21,000.00
2014-2017	\$22,000.00
2018	\$23,000.00

4. Funeral and burial expenses are those expenses directly connected with a funeral or memorial service and with the burial or cremation of the body. Funeral and burial expenses must be accounted for by a bill from the funeral home.
5. If someone paid some or all of the funeral or burial expenses for the decedent, there must be a receipt from the funeral home indicating who paid and the amount paid.
6. A description and value must be given of all property within the decedent's estate. Any liens, encumbrances, or mortgages on real estate can be used to reduce the property's value listed on the form. For bank accounts, indicate the name of the bank, the account number(s), and the balance at the date of death. For stocks and bonds, indicate the name



of the corporation, number of shares, price per share, and total value at the date of death. For autos, trucks, boats, etc., include a description and the vehicle number. For real estate, list the complete legal description, and not simply the street address.

7. You must include, along with the signed Petition, a copy of the decedent's death certificate.

