



93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
State of Illinois
2003 and 2004

Introduced 2/4/2004, by Richard J. Winkel Jr.

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

755 ILCS 5/25-1

from Ch. 110 1/2, par. 25-1

Amends the Probate Act of 1975. In provisions concerning a small estate affidavit, increases the permissible maximum value of the decedent's personal estate from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Effective immediately.

LRB093 14127 WGH 40054 b

1 AN ACT in relation to estates.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Probate Act of 1975 is amended by changing
5 Section 25-1 as follows:

6 (755 ILCS 5/25-1) (from Ch. 110 1/2, par. 25-1)

7 Sec. 25-1. Payment or delivery of small estate of decedent
8 upon affidavit.

9 (a) When any person or corporation (1) indebted to or
10 holding personal estate of a decedent, (2) controlling the
11 right of access to decedent's safe deposit box or (3) acting as
12 registrar or transfer agent of any evidence of interest,
13 indebtedness, property or right is furnished with a small
14 estate affidavit in substantially the form hereinafter set
15 forth, that person or corporation shall pay the indebtedness,
16 grant access to the safe deposit box, deliver the personal
17 estate or transfer or issue the evidence of interest,
18 indebtedness, property or right to persons and in the manner
19 specified in paragraph 11 of the affidavit or to an agent
20 appointed as hereinafter set forth.

21 (b) Small Estate Affidavit

22 I, (name of affiant) , on oath state:

23 1. (a) My post office address is: ;

24 (b) My residence address is: ; and

25 (c) I understand that, if I am an out-of-state
26 resident, I submit myself to the jurisdiction of Illinois
27 courts for all matters related to the preparation and use of
28 this affidavit. My agent for service of process in Illinois is:

29 NAME.....
30 ADDRESS.....
31 CITY.....
32 TELEPHONE (IF ANY).....

1 I understand that if no person is named above as my agent for
 2 service or, if for any reason, service on the named person
 3 cannot be effectuated, the clerk of the circuit court of
 4(County) (Judicial Circuit) Illinois is recognized by
 5 Illinois law as my agent for service of process.

6 2. The decedent's name is ;

7 3. The date of the decedent's death was , and I
 8 have attached a copy of the death certificate hereto.

9 4. The decedent's place of residence immediately before his
 10 death was ;

11 5. No letters of office are now outstanding on the
 12 decedent's estate and no petition for letters is contemplated
 13 or pending in Illinois or in any other jurisdiction, to my
 14 knowledge;

15 6. The gross value of the decedent's entire personal
 16 estate, including the value of all property passing to any
 17 party either by intestacy or under a will, does not exceed
 18 \$100,000 ~~\$50,000~~. (Here, list each asset, e.g., cash, stock,
 19 and its fair market value.);

20 7. (a) All of the decedent's funeral expenses have been
 21 paid, or (b) The amount of the decedent's unpaid funeral
 22 expenses and the name and post office address of each person
 23 entitled thereto are as follows:

Name and post office address	Amount
(Strike either 7(a) or 7(b)).	

26 8. There is no known unpaid claimant or contested claim
 27 against the decedent, except as stated in paragraph 7.

28 9. (a) The names and places of residence of any surviving
 29 spouse, minor children and adult dependent* children of the
 30 decedent are as follows:

Name and	Place of	Age of
Relationship	Residence	minor child

33 * (Note: An adult dependent child is one who is unable to
 34 maintain himself and is likely to become a public charge.)

1 (b) The award allowable to the surviving spouse of a
 2 decedent who was an Illinois resident is \$..... (\$10,000,
 3 plus \$5,000 multiplied by the number of minor children and
 4 adult dependent children who resided with the surviving spouse
 5 at the time of the decedent's death. If any such child did not
 6 reside with the surviving spouse at the time of the decedent's
 7 death, so indicate).

8 (c) If there is no surviving spouse, the award allowable to
 9 the minor children and adult dependent children of a decedent
 10 who was an Illinois resident is \$..... (\$10,000, plus
 11 \$5,000 multiplied by the number of minor children and adult
 12 dependent children), to be divided among them in equal shares.

13 10. (a) The decedent left no will. The names, places of
 14 residence and relationships of the decedent's heirs, and the
 15 portion of the estate to which each heir is entitled under the
 16 law where decedent died intestate are as follows:

Name, relationship	Age of	Portion of
and place of residence	minor	Estate

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20 OR

21 (b) The decedent left a will, which has been filed with the
 22 clerk of an appropriate court. A certified copy of the will on
 23 file is attached. To the best of my knowledge and belief the
 24 will on file is the decedent's last will and was signed by the
 25 decedent and the attesting witnesses as required by law and
 26 would be admissible to probate. The names and places of
 27 residence of the legatees and the portion of the estate, if
 28 any, to which each legatee is entitled are as follows:

Name, relationship	Age of	Portion of
and place of residence	minor	Estate

31 (Strike either 10(a) or 10(b)).

32 (c) Affiant is unaware of any dispute or potential conflict
 33 as to the heirship or will of the decedent.

34 11. The property described in paragraph 6 of this affidavit
 35 should be distributed as follows:

Name	Specific sum or
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property to be

distributed

The foregoing statement is made under the penalties of perjury*.

.....
Signature of Affiant

*(Note: A fraudulent statement made under the penalties of perjury is perjury, as defined in Section 32-2 of the Criminal Code of 1961.)

(c) Appointment of Agent. If safe deposit access is involved or if sale of any personal property is desirable to facilitate distribution pursuant to the small estate affidavit, all persons named in paragraph 11 of the small estate affidavit (excluding minors and unascertained or disabled persons) may in writing appoint one or more persons as their agent for that purpose. The agent shall have power, without court approval, to gain access to, sell, and distribute the property for the benefit of all persons named in paragraph 11 of the affidavit; and the payment, delivery, transfer, access or issuance shall be made or granted to or on the order of the agent.

(d) Release. Upon payment, delivery, transfer, access or issuance pursuant to a properly executed affidavit, the person or corporation is released to the same extent as if the payment, delivery, transfer, access or issuance had been made or granted to the representative of the estate. Such person or corporation is not required to see to the application or disposition of the property; but each person to whom a payment, delivery, transfer, access or issuance is made or given is answerable therefor to any person having a prior right and is accountable to any representative of the estate.

(e) The affiant signing the small estate affidavit prepared pursuant to subsection (b) of this Section shall indemnify and hold harmless all creditors and heirs of the decedent and other

1 persons relying upon the affidavit who incur loss because of
2 such reliance. That indemnification shall only be up to the
3 amount lost because of the act or omission of the affiant. Any
4 person recovering under this subsection (e) shall be entitled
5 to reasonable attorney's fees and the expenses of recovery.

6 (f) The affiant of a small estate affidavit who is a
7 non-resident of Illinois submits himself or herself to the
8 jurisdiction of Illinois courts for all matters related to the
9 preparation or use of the affidavit. The affidavit shall
10 provide the name, address, and phone number of a person whom
11 the affiant names as his agent for service of process. If no
12 such person is named or if, for any reason, service on the
13 named person cannot be effectuated, the clerk of the circuit
14 court of the county or judicial circuit of which the decedent
15 was a resident at the time of his death shall be the agent for
16 service of process.

17 (Source: P.A. 87-287.)

18 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
19 becoming law.