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Probate Specialist

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Step 1

Request Appointment

The individual seeking appointment as a personal representative typically engages a probate lawyer to file a Petition for Probate.

Step 3

Probate Hearing- Court Approves Appointment

The hearing, held weeks after filing, validates the Will and appoints the executor. Witnesses may sign a declaration. If no objections, the court approves the petition and appoints the representative.

Step 5

Accounting Filed with Court- Assets Distributed

After settling debts and taxes, the executor files a report detailing income and payments for the estate. The judge approves the distribution of remaining property according to the Will.

6 Steps in the Probate Process

Notice: Every State is different. Contact a probate attorney to identify the local statutes and procedures that apply.

Step 2

Notices to heirs and creditor Claims

The probate process involves mailing notices to Will beneficiaries and legal heirs, publishing a notice in the local newspaper for creditors, providing an opportunity for objections to the Will and executor appointment.

Step 4

Asset Identified and Managed Debts Paid & Assets Valued

The personal representative manages probate assets, pays debts, and files tax returns, which typically takes a year. They may need to sell assets like real estate or art to settle debts according to the Will's terms.

Step 6

Estate Closed

The property is transferred to its new owners. The final estate accounting is completed. Estate is closed after consultation with the attorney. Probate process ends.