

Ken Burke

Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller



Summary Administration – Intestate (without a will)

When to use this packet:

Florida Statute 735.201 and Florida Probate Rule 5.530 allow for Summary Administration when the value of the entire estate, less the value of exempt property does not exceed \$75,000 **or** that the decedent has been dead for more than two years.

Important Note:

Before you begin, you may want to inquire with the holder of the asset (for example, if the asset is a bank account, contact the bank) to see what may be required for transfer. Depending on the asset and your relationship to the decedent, ***you may only need a death certificate.***

Resources:

For Death Certificates: www.FloridaHealth.gov or call: (727) 507-4330 ext. 1200

For vehicles: www.flhsmv.gov

Legal descriptions can be found at <https://www.pcpao.org/>.

For unclaimed property: www.fltreasurehunt.org

No- and low-cost legal assistance: Community Law Program – (727) 582-7480; Clearwater Bar Referral – (727) 461-4880; Gulfcoast Legal Services – (727) 443-0657 or (727) 821-0726; St. Pete Bar Referral –

<https://www.stpetebar.com/page/findanatty>

Florida Statutes: www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes

Florida Probate Rules: <https://www-media.floridabar.org/uploads/2020/01/Probate-Rules-01-01-20.pdf>

Fees:

Filing fee: **\$235.00 if the Non-exempt assets are less than \$1,000.00.**

\$345.00 if the Non-exempt assets are \$1,000.00 or more.

You may wish to order certified copies of your order(s), which are \$1 per page, plus \$2 per document. You will need either a self-addressed, stamped envelope to get your order, or pay an additional \$0.69.

Requirements and/or other documents you will need: All yellow box (☐) items indicate documents to be filed with the Clerk. If you do not have ***all*** of the requested documentation (yellow box items), you may wish to gather those documents before filing for a faster turn-around.

The decedent was a resident of or owned real property in Pinellas County at the time of their death.

A death certificate. This must be on the watermarked, textured paper provided by Vital Statistics or the Department of Health. [www.FloridaHealth.gov or call: (727) 507-4330 ext. 1200]

You will need an affidavit of heirship (form included, to be completed by someone other than you and signed before a notary or clerk).

If the decedent had other children, you will need a completed and signed waiver and consent form from each of them. There is one form included, you may need to print or copy more blank forms for each to complete and sign.

The Petition for Summary Administration and Order of Summary Administration (forms included in this packet).

For each of the assets you are trying to obtain, you will need details and a value of it. The court needs to know exactly what it is, who has it, and what it is worth. For example:

If the asset is a car: you will need the year, make, model and VIN (vehicle identification number), along with a valuation of it (such as a Kelly Blue Book appraisal from www.kbb.com).

For bank accounts: you will need the bank name, account number and approximate value.

For homestead or exempt property, you will need a petition and proposed order determining the property to be exempt (forms included in this packet). For real estate, be sure to include the ***legal description*** of the property. You can find this at pcpao.org.

For other assets: give a description of the asset (savings bond, baseball card, check payable to decedent, etc.) any policy/account/serial number and its current market value.

Formal Notice and Proof of Service to Creditors. If the decedent had any debts at the time of their death, you will need to fill out the schedule of creditors, Formal Notice and Proof of Service (forms included). You will then need to send copies of the formal notice, your petition for summary administration, petition for exempt property and petition to determine homestead (if applicable) to ***each creditor***. You will want to send these by certified mail, return receipt requested. When the receipts are returned to you, you will attach them to the Proof of Service form and file it in your case. [Florida Probate Rule 5.040(a)]

You will need to make copies of all of the forms you are submitting. You will need to send copies of each petition you are submitting to any other heirs or creditors of the decedent. You should also keep copies for yourself of all paperwork you are submitting.

Glossary of terms (from FS 731.201):

Assets – anything owned that has monetary value.

Beneficiary -- means an heir at law in an intestate estate.

Case Number (or reference number) – this is a number assigned to the case when it is filed. Once filed, please put this number on all other paperwork submitted to the case.

Claim (or claim of creditor) -- means a liability of the decedent, whether arising in contract, tort, or otherwise, and funeral expense.

Creditor – person or business to whom the decedent owed money.

Decedent – a person who has passed away. In this instance, the person whose estate you are trying to Probate.

Descendant -- means a person in any generational level down the applicable individual's descending line and includes children, grandchildren, and more remote descendants. The term "descendant" is synonymous with the terms "lineal descendant" and "issue".

Domicile -- means a person's usual place of dwelling and shall be synonymous with residence.

Exempt property -- means the property of a decedent's estate which is described in s. 732.402. See also items (b) through (e) of paragraph 8 of the petition for summary administration.

Heirs or "heirs at law" -- means those persons, including the surviving spouse, who are entitled under the statutes of intestate succession (FS Chapter 732) to the property of a decedent.

Homestead -- means the property described in s. 4(a)(1), Art. X of the State Constitution on which at the death of the owner the exemption inures to the owner's surviving spouse or heirs under s. 4(b), Art. X of the State Constitution. For purposes of the code, real property owned in tenancy by the entireties or in joint tenancy with rights of survivorship is not protected homestead. Legal descriptions can be found at <https://www.pcpao.org/>.

Intestate – the decedent died without a will. See also Testate.

Petitioner – the person asking the court for an order. This will be you; the person filling out and signing the petition form.

Reference Number (or case number) – this is a number assigned to the case when it is filed. Once filed, please put this number on all other paperwork submitted to the case.

Testate – the decedent had a will before passing. See also Intestate.

Venue – is the appropriate location for a case to be heard by the court. For Probate, the appropriate venue is: the county in this state where the decedent was domiciled before they died, **or** if the decedent had no domicile in this state, then in any county where the decedent's property is located.

About Creditors:

The people or businesses to whom the decedent owed money to must be addressed in the summary administration of the estate. You must make provision for their payment out of the non-exempt assets and serve them Formal Notice of the petitions for Summary Administration, Determine Homestead and Determine Exempt Property (if any) and file proof of that service in this case (forms provided).

Helpful Hints:

1. This packet contains one waiver and consent form. If, from the above, you realize you need waivers and consents from more than one person, print or copy more blank forms.
2. Make copies of your documents **before** you file them. You will not get them back. You are to provide copies of the petition(s) you are submitting to anyone who needs to sign a consent and waiver or any creditors. Keep a copy for yourself. If something is incorrect, the court may ask you to correct it and you will need to refer back to your copy to see what needs correction.
3. Your petitions and orders should match. Petitions are where you are asking the court for something. The order is what you want the court to sign, which makes that action official. Legal descriptions, account numbers, etc. should be the same on both the petition and the order.
4. ***Don't forget to read the documents carefully as you fill them out. You are signing them under penalty of perjury and are responsible for any errors or omissions.***

What will happen next?

The court will review the documents you have provided and either request any documents you are missing or need correction, or they may sign the proposed order(s). Agencies such as the Dept. of Motor Vehicles and banks require a certified copy of this order to release assets or transfer title. Plan how many certified copies you may need accordingly. Additionally, you may wish to keep one certified copy for your own records.

How long does it take?

It is hard to predict the court's case load. Generally, you should have an order in 4 to 6 weeks. This should allow the allotted time to pass on the Formal Notice to Creditors. They have 20 days from the time they receive your notice and copy of petition(s) to object. Of course, if you did not provide all of the documents requested, or did not fill out the forms correctly, whatever time it takes you to get those documents filed will add to the time it takes to get an order. You will know your case is done when you get your pre-paid copies in the mail.

What does it mean if I get a different order from the court?

Often when your paperwork is not filled out correctly or completely, you will get an order checklist from the court identifying what needs correction. If you must amend a petition simply use the same form, writing 'AMENDED' above the petition title and correct or complete as necessary.

If you want to **view your case online**, you may want to sign up to be a registered user. To do this:

1. Please go to mypinellasclerk.org,
2. Click on View Records.
3. Select Court Records from the drop down,
4. Then, select Court Records Viewing Information

The screenshot shows the website for Ken Burke, CPA, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller of Pinellas County, FL. The navigation menu includes: HOME, VIEW RECORDS (2), FIND A SERVICE, SELF HELP, HELPFUL VIDEOS, NEWSROOM, and CONTACT US. A dropdown menu under VIEW RECORDS (3) lists: Board of County Commissioners Minutes, Court Records (3), Financial Reports, High Profile Cases, Inspector General, Official Records, Redaction Instructions, Spending in the Sunshine, Statistics, and Value Adjustment Board. A sub-menu under Court Records (3) lists: Public View, Registered User Login, Attorney Login, Court Records Viewing Information (4), and Record Searches Performed by Our Office. The footer contains: Jury Services, Make a Payment, Documents, Court Records, and Document Copy Request. A search bar is located in the top right corner.

**IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION**

IN RE: ESTATE OF

REF No. _____

(Clerk provides this number when filed)

(Decedent's Name)

Petition for Summary Administration
Intestate – FL Resident

Petitioner alleges:

1. **Petitioner**, whose name is _____, has an interest in the above estate as _____, and whose address is _____.
2. **Decedent**, whose name was _____, whose last known address was (full street address, city, state and zip) _____ and whose Social Security number was (last 4 digits only) _____. Died on (date of death) _____ at (location of death) _____ and on the date of death decedent was **domiciled** in Pinellas County, FL and died intestate.
3. So far as is known, the names of the beneficiaries of this estate, including the decedent's surviving spouse, if any, their addresses and relationship to decedent, and the year of birth of any who are minors, are (don't forget to include yourself):

NAME	ADDRESS	Relationship to decedent	Year of Birth (if a Minor)

4. The **venue** of this proceeding is in Pinellas county because _____.

5. After the exercise of reasonable diligence, petitioner is unaware of any unrevoked wills or codicils of decedent.
6. Petitioner is entitled to summary administration because (check only those boxes that apply):
 - To the best knowledge of the petitioner, the value of the entire estate subject to administration in this state, less the value of property exempt from the claims of creditors, does not exceed \$75,000.
 - The decedent has been dead for more than two years.
7. Domiciliary (or principal probate) proceedings (check one only): are are not known to be pending in another state or country. (If 'are' was selected, complete the following): Letters have been issued by (county and state of jurisdiction) _____ the _____ address _____ of _____ which _____ is: _____ to (person named Personal Representative or Executor in other state/country) _____ whose address is: _____.
8. The following is a complete list of the assets in this estate and their estimated values, separated by exempt or non-exempt status:

Homestead/EXEMPT property includes: **(a) Homestead property, (b) Household furniture, furnishings, and appliances** in the decedent's residence **up to** a value of **\$20,000**. **(c) Two (2) motor vehicles** in the decedent's name and regularly used by the decedent or members of the decedent's immediate family as their personal vehicles. **(d) All qualified tuition programs**, including, but not limited to, the Florida Prepaid College Trust Fund. **(e) Other personal property (including cash) up to a value of \$1,000. Be aware that if a property is listed, you will need to complete the Petition and proposed Order Determining Homestead for the court. Any other assets listed here, should also be added to the Petition and proposed Order to Determine Exempt Property and submitted to the court.**

Item:	Description (For real property, include mailing and legal addresses; for vehicles, include make, model, year, color and VIN#)	Value
Total of above:		

Schedule of Creditors

Name and Address of Creditor	Nature of Debt	Amount of Debt	Is amount estimated or exact?	When the debt is due

**IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION**

IN RE: ESTATE OF

(Decedent's Name)

REF No. _____
(Clerk provides this number when filed)

**PETITION TO DETERMINE HOMESTEAD STATUS OF REAL PROPERTY
(Intestate)**

Petitioner, _____ alleges:

1. The decedent, _____ died intestate on (date of death) _____, domiciled in Pinellas County, Florida, and was survived by:

[Check only those boxes that apply]

- A spouse who HAS NOT waived his or her homestead rights.
- A spouse who HAS waived his or her homestead rights.
- One or more lineal descendants.

2. At the time of the decedent's death, the decedent owned and resided on the following described contiguous parcel of real property (the "Property"):

Residential Address: _____

Legal Description: _____

3. The name of the decedent's surviving spouse, if any, the names and years of birth of the decedent's minor children, if any, and the names of other lineal descendants having an interest in the decedent's estate, if any, and their respective relationships to the decedent are:

Name	Relationship	Year of Birth (if minor)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

4. The Property constituted the homestead of the decedent within the meaning of Section 4 of Article X of the Constitution of the State of Florida, and petitioner believes that upon decedent's death, title to the Property descended to and the constitutional exemption from claims of decedent's creditors inured to: _____

5. The only persons, other than the petitioner, having an interest in this proceeding, including unpaid creditors, and their respective addresses are:

Name

Address

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Petitioner requests that an order be entered determining that the Property constituted the exempt homestead of the decedent, title to which, upon decedent's death descended and the constitutional exemption from claims inured as set forth in paragraph 4; directing those persons in possession of the property to surrender possession of the Property; and directing that they shall have no further responsibility with respect to the Property.

I certify that all parties listed in paragraphs 3 and 5 have been provided copies of this petition.

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing, and the facts alleged are true, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(Signature of Petitioner)

(Address of Petitioner)

(Printed name of Petitioner)

(City, State, Zip)

(Telephone)

(Date Signed)

**IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION**

IN RE: ESTATE OF

REF No. _____

(Clerk provides this number when filed)

(Decedent's Name)

PETITION TO DETERMINE EXEMPT PROPERTY

1. Petitioner, whose name is _____ and whose address is set forth below, has an interest in the estate as _____.
2. The decedent, on the date of death, was domiciled in Florida.
3. The names and addresses of the persons and the years of birth of any who are minors are entitled by law to the exempt property are:

NAME	ADDRESS	Relationship to decedent	Year of Birth (if a Minor)

4. This petition is filed within the time permitted by Florida Statutes Section 732.402(6).
5. Petitioner alleges that the property listed below is exempt per FS 732.402.

Description of Property

6. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 732.402, the exempt property of the decedent remains subject to any perfected security interests.
7. The only persons, including unpaid creditors, that have an interest in this proceeding, other than listed in paragraph 3 are:

Name	Address
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Petitioner requests that an order be entered determining the persons entitled to the above-described property as exempt property under Section 732.402 and authorizing and directing any holders of the property to deliver the exempt property to the persons entitled to receive the same.

I certify that all parties listed in paragraphs 3 and 7 have been provided copies of this petition.

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing, and the facts alleged are true, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(Signature of Petitioner)

(Address of Petitioner)

(Printed name of Petitioner)

(City, State, Zip)

(Telephone)

(Date Signed)

**IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION**

IN RE: ESTATE OF

REF No. _____

(Clerk provides this number when filed)

(Decedent's Name)

FORMAL NOTICE

TO [Name(s) and addresses of who you are sending notice to]:

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a Petition for Summary Administration, Petition to Determine Homestead status, if filed, and Petition to Determine Exempt Property, if filed, has been filed in this court, a copy of which accompanies this notice. You are required to serve written defenses on the undersigned within 20 days after service of this notice, exclusive of the day of service, and to file the original of the written defenses with the clerk of the above court either before service or immediately thereafter. Failure to serve and file written defenses as required may result in a judgement or order for the relief demanded in the pleading or motion without further notice.

Check this box if the petitions you are attaching are amended.

(Signature of Petitioner)

(Address of Petitioner)

(City, State, Zip)

(Printed name of Petitioner)

(Date Signed)

**IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION**

IN RE: ESTATE OF

REF No. _____

(Clerk provides this number when filed)

(Decedent's Name)

PROOF OF SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE

Under penalties of perjury, I swear or affirm that on (date) _____, a copy of the Petition for Summary Administration, the Petition to Determine Homestead Status (if filed), Petition to Determine Exempt Property (if filed) and a copy of the formal notice thereof filed in the above proceeding were mailed by United States registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, or were delivered in a manner permitted by Florida Probate Rule 5.040(a) to:

(Names and addresses of those to whom notice was sent)

Check this box if the petitions you attached to the notice were amended.

Signed receipts or other evidence that service was made on each address or the addressee's agent are attached.

(Signature of Petitioner)

(Address of Petitioner)

(City, State, Zip)

(Printed name of Petitioner)

(Date Signed)

**IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION**

IN RE: ESTATE OF

REF No. _____

(Clerk provides this number when filed)

(Decedent's Name)

CONSENT AND WAIVER OF NOTICE

The undersigned, whose name is (name of beneficiary) _____, and who has an interest in this estate as (relationship) _____ of the decedent, acknowledges receipt of a copy of the Petition for Summary Administration, Petition to Determine Homestead (if filed), and Petition to Determine Exempt Property (if filed) heretofore filed in this proceeding, waives hearing and notice of hearing thereon, and consents to the entry of an order granting the relief requested in the petition(s) without notice or hearing.

Check here if you are consenting to amended petition(s)

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing and the facts alleged are true, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(Signature of Affiant)

(Address of Affiant)

(Printed name of Affiant)

(City, State, Zip)

(Telephone)

(Date Signed)

3. Parents of the Decedent. (Provide name, age, and address; or if deceased, provide name, indicate deceased, and date of death).

4. Siblings, and descendants of the deceased siblings. You must indicate whether the relationship is that of a half-relative (i.e. half-brother or half-sister). (Provide name, age, and address; or if deceased, provide name, indicate deceased, and date of death).

5. Grandparents. (Provide name, age, and address; or if deceased, provide name, indicate deceased, and date of death).

6. Aunts and Uncles of the Decedent. (Provide name, age, and address; or if deceased, provide name, indicate deceased, and date of death).

7. Kindred of last deceased spouse (ONLY IF filing intestate and is not previously listed above). (Provide name, age, and address; or if deceased, provide name, indicate deceased, and date of death).

8. I, the affiant, am _____ am not _____ related to the decedent as follows _____
_____. I have known the decedent for _____ years. Decedent
_____ died on _____.

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing Affidavit of Heirs and the facts stated therein are true.

(DO NOT sign until you are in front of a clerk or notary.)

(Signature of Affiant)

(Address of Affiant)

(City, State, Zip)

(Telephone)

(Date Signed)

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on _____ by _____.

He/she is personally known to me or has presented _____ as identification.

By Notary:

Signature of Notary

-- OR --

Ken Burke,
Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller
Pinellas County, Florida

Name of Notary typed, printed or stamped

By: _____
Deputy Clerk
(seal)

Commission Number & Expiration Date

**IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION**

IN RE: ESTATE OF

REF No. _____
(Clerk provides this number when filed)

(Decedent's Name)

**ORDER DETERMINING HOMESTEAD STATUS OF REAL PROPERTY
(Intestate)**

On the petition of (petitioner's name) _____ for an order determining homestead status of real property (the "Property"), all interested persons having been served proper notice of the petition and hearing, or having waived notice thereof, the court finds that:

1. The decedent died intestate and was domiciled in Pinellas County, Florida;
2. The decedent was was not survived by a spouse;
3. The decedent was was not survived by one or more lineal descendants;
4. At the time of death, the decedent owned and resided on the Property described in the petition; it is

ADJUDGED that the following-described Property:

Residential Address _____

Legal Description: _____

constituted the homestead of the decedent within the meaning of Section 4 of Article X of the Constitution of the State of Florida. It is

ADJUDGED FURTHER that title to the Property descended, as of the decedent's date of death, and the constitutional exemption from the claims of the decedent's creditors inured to the decedent's surviving spouse if any, or their children, whose name(s) and post office address(es) is/are:

Name	Address	Relationship	Share
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

It is ADJUDGED FURTHER that anyone who may be in possession or control of the property is authorized and directed to surrender the property to the party or parties listed above, and shall have no further responsibility with respect to it.

ORDERED

Circuit Judge

**IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION**

IN RE: ESTATE OF

(Decedent's Name)

REF No. _____
(Clerk provides this number when filed)

ORDER DETERMINING EXEMPT PROPERTY

On the petition of (petitioner's name) _____, for an Order Determining Exempt Property, the court finding that all interested persons have been served proper notice of the petition, or having waived notice thereof; that the material allegations of the petition are true; that the decedent was domiciled in Pinellas County, Florida, at the time of death; and that:

Name	Relationship to Decedent
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

are entitled to claim exempt property under Section 732.402 of the Florida Probate Code; it is therefore

ADJUDGED that the following property shall be distributed as exempt property:

Asset	Description	To whom	Share or Value
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

ADJUDGED FURTHER that those who are in possession of the above property are directed to surrender the exempt property as described above, and upon compliance with this order, are released from further responsibility for the exempt property.

ORDERED

2. Those to whom specified assets of the decedent's estate are distributed by this order have the right to receive and collect those assets and to maintain actions to enforce their rights.
3. Debtors of the decedent, those holding property of the decedent, and those with whom securities or other property of the decedent are registered, are authorized and directed to comply with this order by paying, delivering or transferring to the beneficiaries specified above the parts of the decedent's estate distributed to them by this order, and the persons so paying, delivering or transferring shall not be accountable to anyone else for the property.

ORDERED

Circuit Judge