

## PART III

## ESTATES OF DECEDENTS; GUARDIANSHIPS

## CHAPTER 525

## PROBATE CODE

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## POWERS OF COURT

**525.01 PROBATE COURT; PROVISIONS.** A probate court, which shall be a court of record having a seal, is established in each county. The court shall be open for the transaction of business at the county-seat at all reasonable hours. Hearings may be had at such times and places in the county as the court may deem advisable. The necessary and reasonable traveling expenses of the judge, referee, reporter, clerks, and employees in attending hearings in places other than the county-seat shall be paid by the county.

[1935 c. 72 s. 1] (8992-1)

**525.011 CIVIL AND CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.** Subdivision 1. Except in counties having a city of the first class or in counties having a population of more than 30,000 according to the 1950 federal census, the probate court shall also exercise the powers, duties and jurisdiction conferred upon municipal courts by Min-

nesota Statutes, Chapter 488 or under any other law enacted in lieu thereof which provides for uniform powers, duties and jurisdiction of municipal courts.

Subd. 2. The county board of a county in which additional powers, duties and jurisdictions are conferred upon the probate court by subdivision 1, shall provide and furnish to the probate court such supplies, equipment and personnel as may be necessary for the purposes of the subdivision.

Subd. 3. The clerk of the probate court of a county in which additional powers, duties and jurisdictions are conferred upon probate court by subdivision 1 shall exercise such powers and duties as the probate judge may direct in order to enable the probate court to carry out the provisions of subdivision 1.

[1959 c 494 s 1]

**525.012 FEES, FINES, AND COSTS.** Subdivision 1. Except where otherwise specifically provided by law or any ordinance, charter provision, rule, or regulation of a city, village, or borough in the county of the court's jurisdiction, all fees, fines, and costs collected by the probate court, or the clerk thereof, shall be paid to the treasurer of the county in which the court is situated and credited to the general fund.

Subd. 2. On or before the tenth day of each month, the clerk shall file with the treasurer a verified report showing: (1) The names of all persons convicted during the preceding month, and the nature of the offense; (2) The fine or other punishment imposed; (3) The amount paid by cash, and the amount of cash deposited in lieu of bail, since his last report; (4) The total amount of money received from all sources during the same period; (5) The names of all persons discharged from jail by order of the court.

Subd. 3. The clerk shall receive all fines, deposits, penalties, and other moneys paid into court and keep detailed accounts thereof.

Subd. 4. Upon filing the reports required by this section, the clerk shall pay to the treasurer of the county in which the court is situated all sums in his hands to which the treasurer is entitled; he shall pay all other moneys to the other public officers entitled thereto; and he shall inform the treasurer of all moneys remaining in his hands pursuant to law or court order.

Subd. 5. The clerk shall pay such fees and mileage to witnesses as may be ordered by the probate judge in any action or proceeding involving a charged violation of criminal law or municipal ordinance. The clerk shall obtain receipts therefor as vouchers for the sums paid and shall deduct these payments from the amounts otherwise due the officers to whom the clerk is required to pay fees, costs, and fines. If the clerk is without funds to make the payments required by this subdivision, the witnesses shall be paid, upon certification by the clerk, by the city, village, or borough whose municipal ordinance, charter provision, rule, or regulation is involved in the proceeding, and in other cases by the county in which the court is situated. No witness fees under this subdivision shall be paid in advance. No public officer or employee shall be paid any witness fees when he is called upon to testify in a matter resulting from his public employment.

[1959 c 494 s 2]

**525.013 JURY TRIALS.** Subdivision 1. Except as otherwise provided in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 488, or in any other law enacted in lieu thereof which provides for uniform powers, duties, and jurisdiction of municipal courts, the laws relating to jury trials in the district court apply to jury trials in a probate court under sections 525.011 to 525.015.

Subd. 2. Petit jurors for the trial of all types of action shall be selected in accordance with this section.

Subd. 3. Before the first day of September of each year, the county board at a general or special session and meeting with the judge of the probate court shall select from the qualified electors of the county in which the court is situated, a list of not less than 72 and not more than 144 persons properly qualified to serve as petit jurors and certify the list to the clerk of probate court. If there is a deficiency of persons on the list, the county board meeting with the judge of the probate court may select from the qualified electors of the county additional persons to cover the deficiency and certify and deliver to the clerk a supplementary list which shall thereafter stand as a part of the original list. The validity of the selection is not affected by the fact that any person selected is disqualified from serving as a juror.

Subd. 4. Petit jurors shall be drawn from the list of persons properly qualified.

The clerk of probate court shall issue a venire for the jurors drawn which shall be returnable on such dates and hours as the judge directs. No person shall be drawn as a juror more than once every two years.

Subd. 5. When necessary, the court may issue a special venire.

Subd. 6. Failure to attend as a juror when duly drawn and summoned is punishable as contempt of court.

Subd. 7. Jurors shall be paid by the county in which the court is situated the same compensation and mileage as prescribed by law for jurors in the district court. The clerk of probate court shall deliver to each juror a certificate showing the number of days of service and the mileage for which he is entitled to receive compensation. This certificate shall be filed with the county auditor in which the court is situated and the amount due shall be paid from the treasury of such county. The certificate is a proper and sufficient voucher for the issuance of a warrant. Any juror regularly summoned who actually attends at the time named in such summons is entitled to per diem and mileage whether or not sworn as a juror.

Subd. 8. Whenever a petit jury is desired by a party to a proceeding in probate court under sections 525.011 to 525.015, and such jury is permitted by law, such party shall request such jury, in writing, when the case is set for trial and pay the fees prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 488, or any other law enacted in lieu thereof which provides for uniform powers, duties, and jurisdiction conferred upon municipal courts. The court, by order, may waive the payment of jury fees in a criminal case if it appears that the defendant is unable to make such payment.

[1959 c 494 s 3]

**525.014 PLEADING, PRACTICE, PROCEDURE, AND APPEALS.** Subdivision

1. Pleading, practice, procedure, and the forms thereof in civil actions shall be the same in probate court as in the municipal court under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 488, or any other law enacted in lieu thereof which provides for uniform powers, duties, and jurisdiction of municipal courts.

Subd. 2. Appeals from any judgment of a probate court exercising the powers, duties, and jurisdiction in certain civil and criminal cases under Laws 1959, Chapter 494, shall be made in the same manner as in the municipal courts under Laws 1959, Chapter 660, and any act amendatory of or supplementary thereto.

[1959 c 494 s 4; 1961 c 238 s 1]

**525.015 JUDGMENTS.** No judgment of a probate court under sections 525.011 to 525.015 shall be a lien upon the real estate until a transcript thereof is filed and docketed with the clerk of the district court. If no execution thereon be outstanding, the judgment creditor may cause such transcript to be docketed in the same county, and thereafter execution may issue from either court. The clerk with whom the transcript is so filed may issue transcripts to be filed and docketed in other counties, as in the case of a judgment originally rendered in his court. When docketed as herein provided, the judgment shall have the same force and effect in all respects as the judgment of the district court.

[1959 c 494 s 5]

**525.02 POWERS.** In addition to its general powers, the probate court shall have power:

(1) To examine witnesses on oath, to compel their attendance, and to preserve order during any proceedings before it;

(2) To issue citations, subpoenas, and attachments, to make orders, judgments, and decrees, to issue executions, warrants, or processes to enforce them, and to authorize the taking of depositions of witnesses either within or without the state in any matter pending in such court; provided, that in any contested matter notice of the taking of the deposition shall be given as provided by law;

(3) To adjourn any hearing with or without terms, provided that when objection is made the adjournment shall be only for cause shown by affidavit or otherwise;

(4) To correct, modify, vacate, or amend its records, orders and decrees:

(a) At any time, for the correction of clerical error or pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Section 525.314, as amended.

(b) Within the time for taking an appeal, for the correction of judicial error;

- (c) Within one year after petitioner's discovery thereof, for fraud, whether intrinsic or extrinsic, or misrepresentation unless petitioner be a party to such fraud;
- (d) Within two years after the date of filing of any record, order or decree, for excusable neglect, inadvertence or mistake.

In any case, the petitioner must proceed with due diligence and may be barred by laches or the court may deny relief where it appears that the granting thereof would be inequitable in view of all the facts and circumstances appearing.

(5) To order any representative to surrender and deliver property to his successor or to distribute it;

(6) To punish for contempt, including contempt committed in proceedings before the referee, clerk, or auditor.

[1935 c 72 s 2; 1965 c 563 s 1] (8992-2)

**525.03 BOOKS OF RECORD.** The court shall keep the following books of record:

(1) An index in which files pertaining to estates of deceased persons shall be indexed under the name of the decedent, those pertaining to guardianships under the name of the ward, those pertaining to a mentally ill, inebriate, mentally deficient, or epileptic person under the name of such person, those pertaining to wills deposited pursuant to section 525.22, under the name of the testator; after the name of each file shall be shown the file number and, if ordered by the court, the book and page of the register in which the documents pertaining to such file are listed, and the date of the filing of the first document;

(2) A register, properly indexed, in which shall be listed under the name of the decedent, ward, mentally ill, inebriate, mentally deficient, or epileptic person, or testator, all documents filed pertaining thereto and in the order filed; such list shall show the name of the document, the date of the filing thereof, and shall give a reference to the volume and page of any other book in which any record shall have been made of such document;

(3) A record of wills, properly indexed, in which shall be recorded all wills admitted to probate with the certificate of probate thereof;

(4) A record of bonds, if ordered by the court, properly indexed, in which may be recorded such bonds as may be ordered by the court to be recorded;

(5) A record of letters, properly indexed, in which shall be entered all letters testamentary, of administration, and of guardianship issued;

(6) A record of claims, properly indexed, in which shall be entered under the title of the estate all claims filed against such estate and all offsets thereto. It shall show the number of the claim, the date of filing, the name of the claimant, the amount of the claim, the date of adjudication, the amounts allowed and disallowed, and the final balance;

(7) A record of orders, properly indexed, in which shall be recorded all orders authorizing, or refusing to authorize, the sale, mortgage, or lease of real estate, or confirming, or refusing to confirm, the sale or lease of real estate; all orders directing, or refusing to direct, a conveyance or lease of real estate under contract; all orders vacating a previous appealable order, judgment, or decree; all orders refusing to vacate a previous appealable order, judgment, or decree alleged to have been procured by fraud or misrepresentation, or through surprise or excusable inadvertence or neglect; all judgments or decrees of partial or final distribution; all interlocutory decrees entered pursuant to section 525.481; and all orders granting or denying restoration to capacity.

[1935 c 72 s 3; 1937 c 435 s 1, 2; 1959 c 100 s 1] (8992-3)

**525.031 COPIES.** The court shall furnish a return on appeal or a certified, exemplified, or authenticated copy of any paper on file or of record upon payment therefor at the rate of ten cents per folio, and 25 cents for each certificate.

[1935 c. 72 s. 4] (8992-4)

NOTE: For Hennepin County, see Laws 1965, Chapter 439.

## PERSONNEL

**525.04 JUDGE; ELECTION, QUALIFICATION, BOND.** There shall be elected in each county a probate judge who shall be learned in the law, except that probate judges now in office shall be considered learned in the law insofar as being eligible to continue in office and to be re-elected to same. Before he enters upon the duties of his office he shall execute a bond to the state in the amount of \$1,000, approved by the county board and conditioned upon the faithful discharge of his duties. Such

bond with his oath shall be recorded in the office of the register of deeds and filed in the office of the secretary of state after approval as to form by the attorney general. The premiums on such bond and the expenses of such recording and filing shall be paid by the county. An action may be maintained on such bond by any person aggrieved by the violation of the conditions thereof.

[1935 c 72 s 5; 1937 c 435 s 3; 1955 c 197 s 1] (8992-5)

**525.041 WRITTEN DECISION SHALL BE FILED WITHIN 90 DAYS; MANDATORY.** The decision of every issue of law or fact shall be in writing and shall be filed within 90 days after submission unless prevented by illness or casualty. This provision shall be construed as mandatory, and the county auditor shall not sign or issue a warrant for the salary of the judge, or any instalment thereof, unless the voucher for such warrant is accompanied by an affidavit of the judge that all matters submitted to him for decision 90 days or more prior to the filing of such affidavit have been decided as herein required, unless a decision has been prevented by illness or casualty in which case the reasons for delay shall be specifically stated.

Upon the filing of any appealable order, judgment, or decree, except in uncontested matters or where the final decision was announced at the hearing, the court shall give notice by mail of such filing to each party, or his attorney, who appeared of record at the hearing.

[1935 c. 72 s. 6] (8992-6)

**525.05 JUDGE OR REFEREE; GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION.** The following shall be grounds for disqualification of any judge or referee from acting in any matter: (1) That he or his wife or any of his or her kin nearer than first cousin shall be interested as representative, heir, devisee, legatee, ward, or creditor in the estate involved therein; (2) that it involves the validity or interpretation of a will drawn or witnessed by him; (3) that he may be a necessary witness in such matter; (4) that it involves a property right in respect to which he has been engaged or is engaged as an attorney, or (5) that he was engaged in a joint enterprise for profit with the decedent at the time of death or that he is then engaged in a joint enterprise for profit with any person interested in such matter as representative, heir, devisee, legatee, ward, or creditor. When grounds for disqualification exist, the judge may, and upon proper petition of any person interested in the estate must, request the probate judge of another county or a probate judge who has retired as provided in section 490.12, subdivision 2, to act in his stead in such matter.

[1935 c 72 s 7; 1961 c 6 s 1] (8992-7)

**525.051 TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGES.** Whenever by reason of disqualification, absence, illness, incapacity or other cause, the probate judge of any county is unable to act, or whenever the interest of the public or of any person interested in any matter requires that such probate judge should not act, any other probate judge, or probate judge who has retired as a probate judge, and who consents so to act, may be assigned to serve and discharge the duties of such probate judge in his stead at such times or for such purposes as may be directed by order of such probate judge or in the event of his death or his refusal, failure, or inability so to order as determined by the chief judge of the district court of the judicial district in which the county is situated, by order of such chief judge. Any probate judge or retired probate judge temporarily assigned to serve and discharge the duties of the probate judge in such other county shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary mileage and expenses and may, when so ordered by such chief judge, be paid such additional compensation as such chief judge shall fix, but in no event shall any compensation so paid exceed the rate of compensation prescribed by law as the salary of the probate judge in the county in which said probate judge or retired probate judge is temporarily assigned. It shall be the duty of the county to which a probate judge or retired probate judge is temporarily assigned to make payment to such probate judge or retired probate judge of all amounts due him under the provisions hereof for mileage, expenses or compensation.

Any substitute judge while acting in such capacity shall have all the power, authority, and jurisdiction of the resident judge, including juvenile, municipal or other jurisdiction conferred by law, irrespective of the nature of the jurisdiction of the substitute judge in the county from which called to serve.

[1935 c 72 s 8; Ex1959 c 60 s 1; 1961 c 267 s 1] (8992-8)

**525.052 INSANITY OF JUDGE.** When a verified petition of five voters of any county is presented to a judge of the district court stating that the probate judge of such county is insane and incapacitated to act by reason of mental disability, such district judge shall examine into such alleged insanity or mental disability in the manner provided by law for examinations of insane persons by probate judges. If, upon the examination, such probate judge is found to be insane or incapacitated to act by reason of mental disability, the district judge shall certify such findings to the governor, who shall thereupon declare the office of such probate judge vacant and fill the same by appointment.

[1935 c. 72 s. 9] (8992-9)

**525.053 DELIVERY TO SUCCESSOR.** When the term of office of any judge expires, he shall deliver to his successor all books, records, and papers in his possession relating to his office. Upon his failure to do so within five days after demand by his successor, he shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

[1935 c. 72 s. 10] (8992-10)

**525.06 ANNUAL ASSEMBLAGE; RULES.** The judges of the probate courts shall assemble at the capitol on the second Wednesday after January 1st of each year at ten o'clock in the forenoon or at such other place and time as may have been designated at the preceding assemblage, and any 20 of them shall constitute a quorum. When so assembled such judges shall formulate and adopt rules and make such revision and amendment thereof as they may deem expedient conformably to law, and the same shall take effect from and after the publication thereof as directed by them. Such rules shall govern all the probate courts of this state, but, in furtherance of justice, the court may relax or modify them or relieve a party from the effect thereof on such terms as may be just. The reasonable expenses of the judges attending such meetings shall be paid by their respective counties.

[1935 c. 72 s. 11] (8992-11)

**525.07 ACTING AS COUNSEL PROHIBITED.** No judge, referee, clerk, deputy clerk, or employee of any probate court, or the law partner of any of them, shall be counsel or attorney in any action or proceedings for or against any devisee, legatee, heir, creditor, representative, or ward over whom, or whose estate, claim, or accounts such court has jurisdiction. Except in matters relating to commitments, none of them shall give counsel or advice, or draw or prepare any paper relating to any matter which is or may be brought before such court, except orders, judgments, decrees, executions, warrants, certificates, or subpoenas issuing out of such court. No judge, referee, or clerk shall keep or hold his official office with any practicing attorney.

[1935 c. 72 s. 12] (8992-12)

**525.08 SALARIES.** The salaries of the judges, referees, clerks, reporters, and employees shall be as provided by law, but the salaries of the clerks and employees shall be fixed by the judge within the limits provided by law, notwithstanding the provisions of Laws 1935, Chapter 72, Section 196.

[1935 c. 72 s. 13] (8992-13)

**525.081 JUDGES SALARIES.** Subdivision 1. **Amounts.** In all counties of this state now or hereafter having a population of less than 200,000, the yearly salaries to be paid to the judges of probate court shall be as follows:

In counties having a population of less than 5,000, the sum of \$6000.

In counties having a population of 5,000 and less than 10,000, the sum of \$6500.

In counties having a population of 10,000 and less than 15,000, the sum of \$7500.

In counties having a population of 15,000 and less than 20,000, the sum of \$8500.

In counties having a population of 20,000 and less than 25,000, the sum of \$9,500.

In counties having a population of 25,000 and less than 35,000, the sum of \$13,500.

In counties having a population of 35,000 and less than 50,000, the sum of \$14,500.

In counties having a population of 50,000 and less than 200,000, the sum of \$16,000.

Subd. 2. **Exceptions.** In any county under 25,000 population, where the probate court has and exercises municipal court jurisdiction and in which county there

is no municipal court in the county seat functioning as such, the probate judge shall receive an additional sum of \$1,000 annually, in which case the probate judge shall file monthly a certificate to that effect with the county auditor and a like certificate annually with the administrative assistant to the supreme court. The judge of probate court of Scott county shall receive an additional sum of \$1,000 annually notwithstanding the limitations of this subdivision.

**Subd. 3. Judge now serving.** The salary fixed by the total of the sums provided under subdivisions 1 and 2 shall not act to reduce the salary of any probate judge now serving.

**Subd. 4. Payment; fees.** The salary herein provided shall be paid by the county in equal monthly installments and be in full compensation for all services rendered by him as judge of both probate and juvenile court and in lieu of all fees and emoluments provided by law for official services, except fees for performing marriages and except compensation for services as a member of the youth conservation commission. All fees collectible by and paid to the probate court, except as herein provided, shall be turned over to the general revenue fund of the county.

**Subd. 5. Practice of law.** No judge of the probate court in any county having a population of 25,000 or more, shall practice as an attorney or counselor at law, nor shall he be a partner of any practicing attorney in the business of his profession.

**Subd. 6. Practice of law, probate matters.** No judge of the probate court shall practice law in any probate court in the state of Minnesota.

**Subd. 7. Census.** All references herein to population are to the latest decennial federal census provided that no changes due to any subsequent decennial census shall be effective until July 1 following the first regular legislative session subsequent to the year in which said decennial census was taken.

[1961 c 596 s 1; 1965 c 826 s 1]

NOTE: Laws 1965, Chapter 826, Section 2 reads as follows:

"Sec. 2. Laws 1963, Chapter 441, Section 1, is not applicable to section 1."

For salaries of judges of probate court in counties having a population of 250,000 or more, see section 526.18.

St. Louis county probate judge's salary, \$17,000. See Laws 1965, Chapter 570, Section 1.

**525.09 CLERKS; APPOINTMENT; POWERS.** The judge may appoint a clerk, deputy clerks, and employees as provided by law, to hold office during his pleasure, who shall perform the duties imposed by law and such judge. Such appointments shall be in writing and filed in such court. Before entering upon the duties of his office, each clerk and such deputy clerks and employees designated by the court shall execute a bond to the state in the amount of \$1,000 approved by the county board and conditioned upon the faithful discharge of his duties. Such bond with the oath of the appointee shall be recorded in the office of the register of deeds and filed in the office of the secretary of state after approval as to form by the attorney general. The premiums on such bonds and the expenses of such recording and filing shall be paid by the county. An action may be maintained on such bond by any person aggrieved by the violation of the conditions thereof. A clerk or deputy clerk may take acknowledgments, administer oaths, authenticate, exemplify, or certify copies of instruments, documents, or records of the court, and when so ordered may hear and report to the court the testimony of any witnesses and the interrogatories and objections of counsel.

[1935 c. 72 s. 14; 1937 c. 435 s. 4; 1945 c. 209 s. 1] (8992-14)

**525.091 DESTRUCTION AND REPRODUCTION OF PROBATE RECORDS.** Subdivision 1. The clerk of probate court of any county upon order of the probate judge may destroy all the original documents in any proceeding of record in his office 10 years after the file in such proceeding has been closed provided the original or a Minnesota State Archives Commission approved photographic, photostatic, microphotographic, microfilmed, or similarly reproduced copy of the original of the following enumerated documents in the proceeding are on file in his office.

Enumerated original documents:

(a) In estates, the jurisdictional petition and proof of publication of the notice of hearing thereof; will and certificate of probate; letters; inventory and appraisal; inheritance tax return or schedule of non-probate assets; inheritance tax return waiver or self assessed inheritance tax return; orders directing and confirming sale, mortgage, lease, or for conveyance of real estate; order setting apart statutory selection; receipts for federal estate taxes and state inheritance taxes; decrees of distribution; federal estate tax closing letter, consent to discharge by



commissioner of taxation and order discharging representative; and any amendment of the listed documents.

When an estate is deemed closed as provided in clause (d) of this subdivision, the enumerated documents shall include all claims of creditors.

(b) In guardianships, the jurisdictional petition and order for hearing thereof with proof of service; letters; orders directing and confirming sale, mortgage, lease or for conveyance of real estate; order for restoration to capacity and order discharging guardian; and any amendment of the listed documents.

(c) In mental, inebriety, and indigent matters, the jurisdictional petition; report of examination; warrant of commitment; notice of discharge from institution, or notice of death and order for restoration to capacity; and any amendment of the listed documents.

(d) Except for the enumerated documents described in this subdivision, the clerk of probate court may destroy all other original documents in any proceeding without retaining any reproduction of the document. For the purpose of this subdivision, a proceeding in the probate court is deemed closed if no document has been filed in the proceeding for a period of 15 years, except in the cases of wills filed for safe-keeping and those containing wills of decedents not adjudicated upon.

Subd. 2. The clerk of probate court of any county upon order of the probate judge may destroy the original record books as enumerated in this subdivision provided a Minnesota state archives commission approved photographic, photostatic, microphotographic, microfilmed, or similarly reproduced copy of the original record book is on file in his office.

Enumerated original record books:

(a) All record books kept for recording in compliance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 525.03, Clauses (3), (4), (5) and (7).

(b) All record books kept for entering claims in compliance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 525.03, Clause (6), after the expiration of 15 years from the date of the last proceeding entered therein. The destruction of any claim record book in accordance with this subdivision shall require an entry in the register kept under Minnesota Statutes, Section 525.03, Clause (2), to show the later disposition of any claim and shall have the same force and effect as though the disposition of the claim was entered in the original claim register.

(c) All record books kept for inheritance tax purposes in compliance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 291.29, Subdivisions 1 and 2, after the expiration of 15 years from the date of the last proceeding entered therein.

Subd. 3. A photographic, photostatic, microphotographic, microfilmed, or similarly reproduced record is of the same force and effect as the original and may be used as the original document or book of record in all proceedings.

Subd. 4. This section does not apply to the probate court of any county until the county board of the county adopts a resolution authorizing the destruction of probate records pursuant to the provisions of this section. When the county board has complied with this subdivision, Minnesota Statutes, Section 525.092 and any act amendatory thereof shall no longer apply to the probate court of that county.

[1965 c 883 s 1]

**525.092 CLERK MAY DESTROY CERTAIN PAPERS.** Subdivision 1. **Certain vouchers and receipts.** The clerk of the probate court is hereby authorized to destroy all vouchers or receipts filed in estates and guardianship proceedings of record in his office after such estates or guardianships have been closed for a period of 25 years, or more, except receipts for any federal or state taxes.

Subd. 2. **Certain guardianships excepted.** The provisions of this section shall not apply to guardianships of incompetent or insane persons, nor to guardianships of minors until one year after the minor has attained his twenty-first birthday.

[1947 c 117 s 1, 2; 1949 c 409 s 1; 1951 c 21 s 1]

**525.094** [Repealed, 1965 c 883 s 2]

**525.095 CLERK MAY ISSUE ORDERS UNDER DIRECTION OF THE COURT.** The judge may authorize the clerk or any deputy clerk to issue orders for hearing petitions for general administration, for the probate of any will, for determination of descent, for sale, lease, mortgage, or conveyance of real estate, for the settlement and allowance of any account, for partial or final distribution, for commitment, orders limiting the time to file claims and fixing the time and place for the hearing thereon, and to issue notice of the entry of any order. The issuance of any such

order or notice by the clerk or deputy clerk shall be prima facie evidence of his authority to issue it.

[1935 c. 72 s. 15; 1937 c. 435 s. 5] (8992-15)

**525.10 REFEREE; APPOINTMENT; BOND.** The judge of the probate court of any county in this state now or hereafter having more than 350,000 inhabitants may appoint one referee in probate who shall be a resident of such county and an attorney at law duly admitted in this state. He shall hold office during the pleasure of the judge appointing him. Such appointment shall be in writing and filed in such court. Before entering upon the duties of his office, he shall execute a bond to the state in the amount of \$1,000 approved by the county board and conditioned upon the faithful discharge of his duties. Such bond with the oath of the appointee shall be recorded in the office of the register of deeds and filed in the office of the secretary of state after approval as to form by the attorney general. The premiums on such bond and the expenses of such recording and filing shall be paid by the county. An action may be maintained on such bond by any person aggrieved by the violation of the conditions thereof.

[1935 c 72 s 16; 1937 c 435 s 6; 1957 c 212 s 1] (8992-16)

NOTE: St. Louis county probate court referees, see Laws 1955, Chapter 747, as amended, and Laws 1965, Chapter 570.

Hennepin county probate referees, see Laws 1963, Chapter 651.

**525.101 COMPENSATION OF REFEREE.** Such referee shall receive from the county as compensation \$3,600 per annum in counties having more than 500,000 inhabitants, and in counties having more than 350,000 and less than 500,000 inhabitants and for which no provision is made for cost of living increases, compensation of not to exceed \$10,000 per annum shall be fixed by its board of county commissioners, payable from the general funds of the county not otherwise appropriated, at the same time and in the same manner and subject to the provisions of law applicable to the compensation of the judge. The county shall furnish him with a suitable office in the court house or in some other suitable place or places designated by the judge. The judge may assign to the referee from the court's clerks and employees such clerical help as may be necessary to enable him properly to discharge his duties.

[1935 c 72 s 17; 1957 c 212 s 2] (8992-17)

**525.102 REFERENCE.** After such appointment the judge by order may refer to the referee any matter, cause, or proceeding pending in such court. In all matters so referred the referee shall find the facts and report the findings to the judge. In all matters referred and reported the referee may append his signature to the order or decree of the court; and whenever his signature shall be so appended, it shall constitute conclusive evidence that the matter was referred, heard, and reported in the manner required by law and the order of the court therein, provided that the failure of the referee to append his signature to any such order or decree shall not affect its validity.

[1935 c. 72 s. 18] (8992-18)

**525.103 DELIVERY OF BOOKS AND RECORDS.** When the term of office of such referee expires or is terminated, he shall deliver to his successor or to the judge all books and papers in his possession relating to his office. Upon his failure to do so within five days after demand by his successor or the judge, he shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

[1935 c. 72 s. 19] (8992-19)

**525.11 REPORTER; APPOINTMENT AND DUTIES.** The judge may appoint a competent stenographer as reporter and secretary in all matters pertaining to his official duties to hold office during his pleasure. Such reporter shall make a complete record of all testimony given and all proceedings had before the court upon the trial of issue of fact except in commitment proceedings. He shall inscribe all questions in the exact language thereof, all answers thereto precisely as given by the witness or sworn interpreter, all objections made and the grounds thereof as stated by counsel, all rulings thereon, all exceptions taken, all admissions made, all oral stipulations, and all oral motions and orders. When directed by the judge, he shall make a record of any matter or proceeding and without charge shall read to or transcribe for such judge any record made by him. Upon completion of every trial or proceeding, such reporter shall file his stenographic record in the manner directed by the judge. Upon request of any person and payment of his

fees by such person, he shall furnish a transcript. The reporter may take acknowledgments, administer oaths, and certify copies of his stenographic record or transcript thereof.

[1935 c. 72 s. 20] (8992-20)

**525.111 COMPENSATION; TRANSCRIPT FEES.** Where the salary of the reporter is not provided for by law, his compensation shall be paid by the representative as an expense of administration or guardianship, or by the party or parties presenting or contesting the proceedings reported, as the court may determine. In addition to the salary fixed by law or compensation fixed by the court, the reporter shall receive for transcripts furnished such fees as may be fixed by the court not exceeding those allowed by law to the district court reporters of the same county.

[1935 c. 72 s. 21] (8992-21)

**525.112 COURT REPORTERS FOR PROBATE COURT, HENNEPIN COUNTY.** The judge of probate of any county now having or which may hereafter have 400,000 inhabitants, or over, may appoint a competent stenographer as court reporter and secretary, who shall be paid a salary of \$3,000 per annum; and, in addition to this salary, the court reporter may also be paid such fees for transcripts of evidence made in relation to probate hearings, as the judge of probate shall fix and allow, and appoint two additional clerks who shall be competent stenographers, who shall each be paid a salary of \$1,200 per annum.

[1935 c. 373 s. 1; 1941 c. 179 s. 1] (8992-21a)

**525.113 ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEES.** The reporter and clerk mentioned in section 525.112 shall be employed and appointed in addition to the clerk, deputy clerks, and employees now provided by law, to hold office during the pleasure of the judge of probate and shall perform the duties imposed by law and such judge, and their salary shall be paid from the county funds in the same manner as prescribed for the payment of other employees of such court.

[1935 c. 373 s. 2] (8992-21b)

**525.12 AUDITOR; APPOINTMENT.** The court may appoint an auditor in any matter involving an annual, partial, or final account, or the amount due on a claim or an offset thereto. Such appointment may be made with or without notice and on the court's own motion or upon the petition of the representative or of any person interested in the estate or guardianship.

[1935 c. 72 s. 22] (8992-22)

**525.121 POWERS.** The auditor shall have the same power as the court to set hearings, grant adjournments, compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of books, papers, and documents, and to hear all proper evidence relating to such matter. He shall report his findings of fact to the court.

[1935 c. 72 s. 23] (8992-23)

**525.122 COMPENSATION OF AUDITOR.** The auditor shall be allowed such reasonable fees, disbursements, and expenses as may be determined by the court and shall be paid by the representative as expenses of administration or guardianship or by the person applying for such audit as the court may determine.

[1935 c. 72 s. 24] (8992-24)

## INTESTATE SUCCESSION

**525.13 ESTATE.** As used in sections 525.13 to 525.173, the word "estate" includes every right and interest of a decedent in property, real or personal, except such as are terminated or otherwise extinguished by his death.

[1935 c. 72 s. 25] (8992-25)

**525.14 DESCENT OF CEMETERY LOT.** Subject to the right of interment of the decedent therein, a cemetery lot or burial plot, unless disposed of as provided in section 306.29, shall descend free of all debts as follows:

(1) To his surviving spouse, a life estate with right of interment of such spouse therein, and remainder over to the person or association who would be entitled to the fee if there were no spouse;

(2) If there be no surviving spouse, then to his eldest surviving son;

(3) If there be no surviving son, then to his eldest surviving daughter;

(4) If there be no surviving daughter, then to his youngest surviving brother;

(5) If there be no surviving brother, then to his youngest surviving sister;

(6) If there be no surviving spouse, son, daughter, brother, nor sister of the decedent, then to the cemetery association or private cemetery in trust as a burial lot for the decedent and such of his relatives as the governing body thereof shall deem proper.

Such cemetery association or private cemetery, or, with its consent, any person to whom such lot shall so descend may grant and convey the same to any of the decedent's parents, brothers, sisters, or descendants.

A crypt or group of crypts or burial vaults owned by one person in a public or community mausoleum shall be deemed a cemetery lot.

Grave markers, monuments, memorials, and all structures lawfully installed or erected on any cemetery lot or burial plot shall be deemed to be a part of and shall descend with such lot or plot.

[1935 c. 72 s. 26] (8992-26)

**525.145 DESCENT OF HOMESTEAD.** (1) Where there is a surviving spouse the homestead shall descend free from any testamentary or other disposition thereof to which such spouse has not consented in writing or by election to take under the will as provided by law, as follows:

(a) If there be no surviving child or issue of any deceased child, to the spouse;

(b) If there be children or issue of deceased children surviving, then to the spouse for the term of his natural life and the remainder in equal shares to such children and the issue of deceased children by right of representation.

(2) Where there is no surviving spouse and the homestead has not been disposed of by will it shall descend as other real estate.

(3) Where the homestead passes by descent or will to the spouse or children or issue of deceased children, it shall be exempt from all debts which were not valid charges thereon at the time of decedent's death; in all other cases it shall be subject to the payment of the items mentioned in section 525.16. No lien or other charge against any homestead which is so exempted shall be enforced in the probate court, but the claimant may enforce such lien or charge by an appropriate action in the district court.

[1935 c. 72 s. 27; 1937 c. 435 s. 7; 1943 c. 329 s. 1] (8992-27)

**525.15 ALLOWANCES TO SPOUSE.** When any person dies, testate or intestate.

(1) The surviving spouse shall be allowed from the personal property of which the decedent was possessed or to which he was entitled at the time of his death, the wearing apparel, and, as selected by him, furniture and household goods not exceeding \$2,000 in value, and other personal property not exceeding \$1,000 in value;

(2) When, except for one automobile, all of the personal estate of the decedent is allowed to the surviving spouse by clause (1), the surviving spouse shall also be allowed such automobile;

(3) If there be no surviving spouse, the minor children shall receive the property specified in clause (1) as selected in their behalf;

(4) During administration, but not exceeding 18 months, unless an extension shall have been granted by the court, or, if the estate be insolvent, not exceeding 12 months, the spouse or children, or both, constituting the family of the decedent shall be allowed such reasonable maintenance as the court may determine.

(5) In the administration of an estate of a nonresident decedent, the allowances received in the domiciliary administration shall be deducted from the allowances under this section.

[1935 c 72 s 28; 1947 c 45 s 1; 1955 c 189 s 1] (8992-28)

**525.16 DESCENT OF PROPERTY.** Except as provided in sections 525.14 and 525.145, and subject to the allowances provided in section 525.15, and the payment of the expenses of administration, funeral expenses, expenses of last illness, taxes, and debts, the estate, real and personal, shall descend and be distributed as follows:

(1) Personal property: To the surviving spouse one-third thereof free from any testamentary disposition thereof to which such survivor shall not have consented in writing or by election to take under the will as provided by law;

(2) Real property: To the surviving spouse an undivided one-third of all real property of which the decedent at any time while married to such spouse was seized or possessed, to the disposition whereof by will or otherwise such survivor shall not have consented in writing or by election to take under the will as provided by law, except such as has been transferred or sold by judicial partition proceedings

or appropriated to the payment of the decedent's debts by execution or judicial sale, by general assignment for the benefit of creditors, or by insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings, and subject to all judgment liens;

(3) If a spouse and only one child or the issue of a deceased child survive, the share of the spouse under the provisions of clauses (1) and (2) shall be one-half instead of one-third;

(4) Subject to the preceding provisions of this section, the whole estate, real and personal, except as otherwise disposed of by will shall descend and be distributed as follows:

(a) In equal shares to the surviving children and to the issue of deceased children by right of representation;

(b) If there be no surviving child nor issue of any deceased child, and if the intestate leave a surviving spouse, then to such spouse;

(c) If there be no surviving issue nor spouse, then to the father and mother in equal shares, or if but one survive, then to such survivor;

(d) If there be no surviving issue, spouse, father nor mother, then to the surviving brothers and sisters, if any, and to the issue of any deceased brother or sister in equal shares if all are of equal degree and, if not, then in equal shares to those in the nearest degree and by right of representation to those in a more remote degree;

(e) If there be no surviving issue, spouse, father, mother, brother, sister, nor issue of any deceased brother or sister, then in equal shares to the next of kin in equal degree, except that when there are two or more collateral kindred in equal degree claiming through different ancestors, those who claim through the nearest ancestor shall take to the exclusion of those claiming through an ancestor more remote.

(5) If a minor die leaving no spouse nor issue surviving, all of his estate that came to him by inheritance or will from his parent shall descend and be distributed to the other children of the same parent, if any, and to the issue of any deceased child of such parent in equal shares if all are of equal degree and, if not, then in equal shares to those in the nearest degree and by right of representation to those in a more remote degree; failing all such, it shall descend and be distributed by intestate succession as in other cases;

(6) If the intestate leave no spouse nor kindred, the estate shall escheat to the state.

[1935 c 72 s 29; 1937 c 435 s 8; 1939 c 270 s 1-3] (8992-29)

**525.161 NO SURVIVING SPOUSE OR KINDRED, NOTICES TO ATTORNEY GENERAL.** When it appears from the petition for administration of the estate, or otherwise, in an estate pending in the probate court for settlement that the intestate left surviving no spouse or kindred, the court shall give notice of such fact and notice of all subsequent hearings in such estate to the attorney general forthwith; and the attorney general shall protect the interests of the state during the course of administration. The residue which is decreed to escheat to the state shall be transmitted to the attorney general, together with a certified copy of the final decree of distribution, and he shall file a receipt for same with the probate court. All moneys, stock, bonds, notes, mortgages and other securities, and all other personal property so escheated shall then be given into the custody of the state treasurer, who shall notify the state auditor thereof and immediately credit the moneys received to the general revenue fund. The treasurer shall hold such stocks, bonds, notes, mortgages and other securities, and all other personal property, subject to such investment, sale or other disposition as the state board of investment may direct pursuant to section 11.08. The attorney general shall immediately report to the state executive council all real property received in the individual escheat, and any sale or disposition of such real estate shall be made in accordance with sections 94.09 to 94.16.

[1955 c 194 s 1; 1957 c 861 s 1]

**525.17 DEGREE OF KINDRED.** The degree of kindred shall be computed according to the rules of the civil law. Kindred of the half blood shall inherit equally with those of the whole blood in the same degree unless the inheritance comes to the intestate by descent, devise, or bequest from one of his ancestors, in which case all those who are not of the blood of such ancestor shall be excluded from such inheritance.

[1935 c 72 s 30] (8992-30)

**525.171 POSTHUMOUS CHILD.** A posthumous child shall be considered as living at the death of its parent.

[1935 c. 72 s. 31] (8992-31)

**525.172 ILLEGITIMATE AS HEIR.** An illegitimate child shall inherit from his mother the same as if born in lawful wedlock, and also from the person who in writing and before a competent attesting witness shall have declared himself to be his father, provided such writing or an authenticated copy thereof shall be produced in the proceeding in which it is asserted; but such child shall not inherit from the kindred of either parent by right of representation.

[1935 c. 72 s. 32; 1963 c. 649 s. 1] (8992-32)

**525.173 HEIRS TO ILLEGITIMATE.** If any illegitimate child dies intestate and without spouse or issue who inherit under the law, his estate shall descend to his mother, or in case of her prior decease to her heirs other than such child.

[1935 c. 72 s. 33] (8992-33)

## WILLS

**525.18 EXECUTION OF WILL.** Subdivision 1. Every person of sound mind, not a minor, may dispose of his estate, or any part thereof, or any right or interest therein, by his last will in writing, signed by him or by some person in his presence and by his express direction, and attested and subscribed in his presence by two or more competent witnesses.

Subd. 2. In addition, every such person described in subdivision 1 may by will dispose of the whole or any part of his body to a teaching institution, university, college, state board of public health, or legally licensed hospital, either for use as such institution, university, college or hospital may see fit, or for use as expressly designated therein.

[1935 c. 72 s. 34; 1949 c. 160 s. 1] (8992-34)

**525.181 COMPETENCY OF WITNESSES.** If a witness to a will is competent at the time of his attestation, his subsequent incompetency shall not prevent the admission to probate of such will, nor shall a mere charge on the real estate of the testator for the payment of his debts prevent a creditor from being a competent witness to his will.

[1935 c. 72 s. 35] (8992-35)

**525.182 NUNCUPATIVE WILLS.** Nuncupative wills shall not be valid unless made by a soldier in actual service or by a mariner at sea, and then only as to personal estate. To entitle such a will to probate, the testamentary words, or the substance thereof, must be reduced to writing within 30 days after they were spoken; the petition for probate must be filed within six months after they were spoken. In addition to the facts otherwise required, the petition shall allege the date, before whom the same were spoken, and by whom the same were reduced to writing. Such writing shall accompany the petition. No such will shall be admitted to probate except upon testimony of at least two credible and disinterested witnesses.

[1935 c. 72 s. 36] (8992-36)

**525.183 WILLS MADE ELSEWHERE.** A will made out of this state may be admitted to probate if executed according to the laws of this state, or if in writing, signed by the testator and valid according to the laws of the state or country in which it was made or of the testator's domicile.

[1935 c. 72 s. 37] (8992-37)

**525.184 BENEFICIARY A WITNESS.** A beneficial devise or bequest made in a will to a subscribing witness thereto shall be void unless there be two other competent subscribing witnesses who are not beneficiaries thereunder. If such witness would have been entitled to any share of the testator's estate in the absence of a will, then so much of such share as will not exceed the value of the devise or bequest shall be assigned to him from the part of the estate included in the void devise or bequest.

[1935 c. 72 s. 38] (8992-38)

**525.19 REVOCATION OF WILL.** No will in writing shall be revoked or altered otherwise than by some other will in writing; or by some other writing of the testator declaring such revocation or alteration, and executed with the same formalities with which the will itself was required by law to be executed; or unless such will be burnt, torn, canceled, obliterated or destroyed, with the intent and for

the purpose of revoking the same, by the testator himself or by another person in his presence by his direction and consent. When so done by another person, the direction and consent of the testator and the facts of such injury or destruction shall be proved by at least two witnesses. Nothing in this section shall prevent the revocation implied by law from subsequent change in the condition or circumstances of the testator.

[1935 c. 72 s. 39] (8992-39)

**525.191 REVOCATION BY MARRIAGE OR DIVORCE.** If after making a will testator marries, the will is thereby revoked. If after making a will the testator is divorced, all provisions in such will in favor of the testator's spouse so divorced are thereby revoked.

[1935 c. 72 s. 40] (8992-40)

**525.20 AFTER-BORN CHILD.** If any child of the testator, including a posthumous child, born after the making of a will has no provision made for him by the testator by will or otherwise, he shall take the same share that he would have taken if the testator had died intestate unless it appears that such omission was intentional and not occasioned by accident or mistake.

[1935 c. 72 s. 41] (8992-41)

**525.201 OMITTED CHILD.** If a testator omits to provide in his will for any of his children or the issue of a deceased child, they shall take the same share of his estate which they would have taken if he had died intestate unless it appears that such omission was intentional and not occasioned by accident or mistake.

[1935 c. 72 s. 42] (8992-42)

**525.202 APPORTIONMENT.** If the person takes a portion of a testator's estate under the provisions of section 525.20 or 525.201, such portion shall first be taken from the estate not disposed of by the will; if that be insufficient, so much as is necessary shall be taken from all the devisees and legatees in proportion to the value of what they respectively receive under such will. If the obvious intention of the testator in relation to some specific devise, bequest, or other provision of the will would thereby be defeated, then such specific devise, bequest, or provision may be exempted from such apportionment, and a different apportionment adopted in the discretion of the court.

[1935 c. 72 s. 43] (8992-43)

**525.203 DECEASED BENEFICIARY.** If a devise or bequest be made to a child or other blood relative of the testator who dies before the testator leaving issue who survive the testator, such issue shall take the same estate which such devisee or legatee would have taken if he had survived, unless a different disposition be made or required by the will.

[1935 c. 72 s. 44] (8992-44)

**525.21 QUANTITY OF ESTATE DEVISED.** Every devise of real estate shall convey all the estate of the testator therein subject to liens and encumbrances thereon unless a different intention appears from the will.

[1935 c. 72 s. 45] (8992-45)

**525.211 AFTER-ACQUIRED PROPERTY.** All property acquired by the testator after making his will shall pass thereby in like manner as if possessed by him at the time when he made his will, unless a different intention clearly appears from the will.

[1935 c. 72 s. 46] (8992-46)

**525.212 RENUNCIATION AND ELECTION.** If a will make provision for a surviving spouse in lieu of the rights in the estate secured by statute, such spouse shall be deemed to have elected to take under the will, unless he shall have filed an instrument in writing renouncing and refusing to accept the provisions of such will within six months after the filing of the certificate of probate. For good cause shown, the court may permit an election within such further time as the court may determine. No devise or bequest to a surviving spouse shall be considered as adding to the rights in the estate secured by sections 525.145 and 525.16 to such spouse, unless it clearly appears from the contents of the will that such was the testator's intent.

[1935 c. 72 s. 47] (8992-47)

**525.22 DEPOSIT OF WILLS.** A will in writing enclosed in a sealed wrapper upon which is endorsed the name and address of the testator, the day when, and the person by whom it is delivered, may be deposited in the probate court of the

county where the testator resides. The court shall give a certificate of its deposit and shall retain such will. During the testator's lifetime, such will shall be delivered only to him or upon his written order witnessed by at least two subscribing witnesses and duly acknowledged. After the testator's death, the court shall open the will publicly and retain the same. Notice shall be given to the executor named therein and to such other persons as the court may designate. If the proper venue is in another court, the will shall be transmitted to such court; but before such transmission a true copy thereof shall be made by and retained in the court in which the will was deposited.

[1935 c. 72 s. 48] (8992-48)

**525.221 DUTY OF CUSTODIAN.** After the death of a testator, the person having custody of his will shall deliver it to the court which has jurisdiction thereof. Every person who neglects to deliver a will after being duly ordered to do so shall be guilty of contempt of court.

[1935 c. 72 s. 49] (8992-49)

**525.222 PROBATE ESSENTIAL.** No will shall be effectual to pass either real or personal estate unless duly admitted to probate. Such probate shall be conclusive as to the due execution of a will.

[1935 c. 72 s. 50] (8992-50)

#### UNIFORM TESTAMENTARY ADDITIONS TO TRUSTS ACT

**525.223 UNIFORM TESTAMENTARY ADDITIONS TO TRUSTS ACT.** Subdivision 1. **Testamentary additions to trusts.** A devise or bequest, the validity of which is determinable by the law of this state, may be made by a will to the trustee or trustees of a trust established or to be established by the testator or by the testator and some other person or persons or by some other person or persons, including a funded or unfunded life insurance trust, although the trustor has reserved any or all rights of ownership of the insurance contracts, if the trust is identified in the testator's will and its terms are set forth in a written instrument, other than a will, executed before or concurrently with the execution of the testator's will or in the valid last will of a person who has predeceased the testator, regardless of the existence, size, or character of the corpus of the trust. The devise or bequest shall not be invalid because the trust is amendable or revocable, or both, or because the trust was amended after the execution of the will or after the death of the testator. Unless the testator's will provides otherwise, the property so devised or bequeathed (a) shall not be deemed to be held under a testamentary trust of the testator but shall become a part of the trust to which it is given and (b) shall be administered and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the instrument or will setting forth the terms of the trust, including any amendments thereto made before the death of the testator, regardless of whether made before or after the execution of the testator's will, and, if the testator's will so provides, including any amendments to the trust made after the death of the testator. A revocation or termination of the trust before the death of the testator shall cause the devise or bequest to lapse.

Subd. 2. **Effect on prior wills.** This section shall not invalidate any devise or bequest made by a will executed prior to the effective date of Laws 1963, Chapter 13.

Subd. 3. **Uniformity of interpretation.** This section shall be so construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law of those states which enact it.

Subd. 4. **Short title.** This section is the uniform testamentary additions to trusts act.

Subd. 5. **Effective date.** This section shall take effect upon final enactment, and shall apply to all wills and trusts heretofore or hereafter executed.

[1963 c 13 s 1-5]

#### PROBATE OF WILLS

**525.23 PETITION FOR PROBATE.** At any time after the death of the testator, any executor, devisee, or legatee named in a will, or any other person interested in the estate may petition the court of the proper county to have the will admitted to probate, whether the same is in his possession or not, is lost, is destroyed, or is without the state.

[1935 c. 72 s. 51] (8992-51)



**525.231 CONTENTS OF PETITION.** Every petition for the probate of a will shall show:

- (1) The jurisdictional facts;
- (2) The names, ages, and addresses of the heirs, legatees, and devisees of the decedent so far as known to the petitioner;
- (3) The probable value and general character of the real and personal property, and the probable amount of the debts;
- (4) The name and address, if known, of the person named as executor, and the name and address of the person for whom letters are prayed.

[1935 c. 72 s. 52] (8992-52)

**525.24 HEARING AND PROOF.** Upon the filing of such petition, the court shall fix the time and place for the hearing thereof, notice of which shall be given pursuant to section 525.83. If probate is not contested, the court may admit the will on the testimony of one of the subscribing witnesses; but, if contested, all the subscribing witnesses who are within the state and competent and able to testify shall be produced and examined. If the instrument is not allowed as the last will and if the estate should be administered, the court shall grant administration to the person or persons entitled thereto.

[1935 c. 72 s. 53] (8992-53)

**525.241 OBJECTIONS.** No person may contest the validity of a will unless the grounds of objection thereto are stated in writing and filed at or before the time of the hearing.

[1935 c. 72 s. 54] (8992-54)

**525.242 SECONDARY EVIDENCE.** If no subscribing witness competent to testify resides in the state at the time appointed for proving the will, the court may admit the testimony of other witnesses to prove the capacity of the testator and the execution of the will, and as evidence of such execution may admit proof of the handwriting of the testator and of the subscribing witnesses.

[1935 c. 72 s. 55] (8992-55)

**525.243 CERTIFICATE OF PROBATE.** When proved as herein provided, every will shall have endorsed thereon or annexed thereto a certificate by the court of such proof. Every will so certified and the record thereof, or a duly certified transcript of such record may be read in evidence in all the courts within this state without further proof.

[1935 c. 72 s. 56] (8992-56)

**525.244 WILL IN OPPOSITION.** If, after a petition for the probate of a will has been filed, another instrument in writing purporting to be the last will or codicil shall be presented, proceedings shall be had for the probate thereof, and thereupon the hearing on the petition theretofore filed shall be adjourned to the time fixed for the hearing of the subsequent petition. At such time proof shall be had upon all of such wills, codicils, and all matters pertaining thereto, and the court shall determine which of such instruments, if any, should be allowed as the last will.

[1935 c. 72 s. 57] (8992-57)

**525.25 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE.** Upon the admission of the will to probate, the court shall appoint a representative and fix the amount of his bond as required by law. If any executor named in the will is found by the court to be suitable and competent to discharge the trust, he shall be appointed. If no executor was named in the will, or if no named executor is found by the court to be willing, suitable, and competent, the court shall appoint the person entitled to administration in case of intestacy as administrator with the will annexed. If any person appointed does not qualify within 20 days, the court may vacate his appointment and grant letters to the other executors. Upon the filing of the oath, acceptance and bond as required by law, letters shall issue.

[1935 c. 72 s. 58] (8992-58)

**525.251 NAMED EXECUTOR A MINOR.** When a person named as executor is a minor at the time of the admission of the will to probate, any other representative appointed and qualifying may administer the estate. When the minor attains majority, he may be appointed corepresentative.

[1935 c. 72 s. 59] (8992-59)

**525.252 DEATH OF REPRESENTATIVE, CLOSING OF ESTATE.** No representative of a deceased representative's estate shall administer the estate of the

first decedent except that if the first estate is fully administered, he may be authorized by the court in the county wherein the first administration is venued to distribute and wind up the estate in such manner as that court may direct.

[1935 c 72 s 60; 1965 c 767 s 1] (8992-60)

#### LOST AND DESTROYED WILLS

**525.26 PETITION AND HEARING.** The petition for the probate of a lost or destroyed will, or one which is without the state and cannot be produced in court shall set forth the provisions of the will in addition to the requirements of section 525.231. Such provisions in such particularity as the court may direct shall be embodied in the notice of hearing, which notice shall be given pursuant to section 525.83.

[1935 c. 72 s. 61] (8992-61)

**525.261 SUFFICIENCY OF PROOF.** No such will shall be established unless it is proved to have remained unrevoked nor unless its provisions are clearly and distinctly proved.

[1935 c. 72 s. 62; 1937 c. 435 s. 9] (8992-62)

**525.262 CERTIFICATION.** When such will is established, the provisions thereof shall be distinctly stated and certified by the court and filed and recorded. Letters shall issue thereon as in the case of other wills.

[1935 c. 72 s. 63] (8992-63)

#### ESTATES OF NON-RESIDENTS

**525.27 WILLS PROVED ELSEWHERE.** Any will duly proved and allowed outside of this state in accordance with the laws in force in the place where proved, may be filed and allowed in any county in which the testator left property upon which such will may operate.

[1935 c. 72 s. 64] (8992-64)

**525.271 ALLOWANCE.** Upon the filing of a duly authenticated copy of such will and of the order, judgment, or decree admitting it to probate, with the petition of the executor or any person interested in the estate for its allowance and for letters, the court shall fix the time and place for the hearing thereof, notice of which shall be given pursuant to section 525.83. If such will was admitted to probate by a court of competent jurisdiction and if the order, judgment, or decree of admission to probate is still in force, the court shall allow the will and appoint a representative as if the will were originally proved and allowed in such court.

[1935 c. 72 s. 65] (8992-65)

**525.272 ADMINISTRATION.** The estate of a non-resident decedent shall be administered in the same manner as an estate of a resident decedent. Upon the payment of the expenses of administration, of the debts and other items here proved, and of the inheritance taxes, the residue of the personalty shall be distributed according to the terms of the will applicable thereto; or if the terms of the will be not applicable thereto, or if there be no will, it shall be distributed according to the law of the decedent's domicile; or the court may direct that it be transmitted to the domiciliary representative to be disposed of by him. The real estate not sold in the course of administration shall be assigned according to the terms of the will applicable thereto, or if the terms of the will be not applicable thereto, or if there be no will, it shall descend according to the laws of this state.

[1935 c. 72 s. 66] (8992-66)

**525.273 FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVE.** Upon the filing for record in the office of the register of deeds of the proper county of an authenticated copy of his letters or other record of his authority and a certificate that the same are still in force, a representative appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction in another state or country may assign, extend, release, satisfy, or foreclose any mortgage, judgment, or lien, or collect any debt secured thereby belonging to the estate represented by him. Real estate acquired by a foreign representative on foreclosure or execution sale shall be held, sold, mortgaged, or leased pursuant to section 525.38.

[1935 c. 72 s. 67; 1937 c. 435 s. 10] (8992-67)

#### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

**525.28 PERSONS ENTITLED.** General administration of the estate of a person dying intestate shall be granted to one or more of the persons hereinafter mentioned, suitable and competent to discharge the trust, and in the following order:

The surviving spouse or next of kin or both, as the court may determine, or some person or persons selected by them or any of them.

If all such persons are incompetent or unsuitable or do not accept, or if the surviving spouse or next of kin do not file a petition therefor within 30 days after the death of the intestate, administration may be granted to one or more of the creditors, or to the nominee or nominees of such creditor or creditors. If the decedent was born in any foreign country or left heirs in any foreign country, and the surviving spouse or next of kin do not file a petition therefor within 30 days after his death, administration may be granted to the consul or other representative of such country, if he resides in this state and has filed a copy of his appointment with the secretary of state, or to the nominee or nominees of such consul or representative.

When the court determines that it is for the best interest of the estate and all persons interested therein, administration may be granted to any other person suitable and competent to discharge the trust whether interested in the estate or not.

If the person appointed does not file the required oath, acceptance, and bond within ten days after notice of such appointment, served in such manner as the court may direct, the court, with or without notice, may vacate the appointment and appoint such other person or persons as may be entitled to administer such estate.

[1935 c. 72 s. 68] (8992-68)

**525.281 CONTENTS OF PETITION.** Every petition for general administration shall show:

- (1) The jurisdictional facts;
- (2) The names, ages, and addresses of the heirs so far as known to the petitioner;
- (3) The probable value and general character of the real and personal property and the probable amount of the debts;
- (4) The name and address of the person for whom administration is prayed.

[1935 c. 72 s. 69] (8992-69)

**525.282 HEARING.** Upon the filing of such petition, the court shall fix the time and place for the hearing thereof, notice of which shall be given pursuant to section 525.83. Any person interested in the estate may contest the petition or oppose the appointment of the person for whom letters are prayed by filing written objections stating the ground thereof, at or before the time of the hearing. Upon proof of the petition, the court shall appoint an administrator and fix the amount of his bond as required by law. Upon the filing of the oath, acceptance, and bond as required by law, letters shall issue.

[1935 c. 72 s. 70] (8992-70)

**525.29 SUBSEQUENT ADMISSION OF WILL.** If, after the appointment of a general administrator, a will is admitted to probate, the powers of such administrator shall cease, and he shall proceed to a final accounting according to law. The new representative shall continue the administration.

[1935 c. 72 s. 71] (8992-71)

**525.291 ADMINISTRATOR D.B.N.** If the sole or surviving representative dies or his authority is otherwise terminated before the estate is fully administered, the court with or without notice shall appoint a successor to administer the estate not already administered. Such successor shall have the same powers and duties as his predecessor.

[1935 c. 72 s. 72] (8992-72)

**525.292 ADMINISTRATOR C.T.A.** Where a will is admitted to probate and a representative other than the person named therein as executor has been appointed and has qualified, such representative shall have all the powers and perform all the duties of an executor including the power to sell, convey, mortgage, and lease real estate where the executor is empowered to do so by the terms of the will.

[1935 c. 72 s. 73] (8992-73)

#### SPECIAL ADMINISTRATION

**525.30 APPOINTMENT.** Upon a showing of necessity or expediency, the court with or without notice may appoint a special administrator whether a petition for general administration or proof of will has been filed or not. There shall be no appeal from any order appointing or refusing to appoint a special administrator.

[1935 c. 72 s. 74] (8992-74)

**525.301 POWERS.** A special administrator shall collect the assets and conserve the estate, unless his powers are limited by the court in the order of appointment and in the letters to the performance of specified acts. Upon a showing of necessity or expediency, the court with or without notice may expressly confer upon a special administrator power to perform any or all acts in the administration of the estate, not exceeding the powers conferred by law upon general administrators.

[1935 c. 72 s. 75] (8992-75)

**525.302 INVENTORY AND APPRAISAL.** Within 14 days after appointment, a special administrator shall file an inventory and appraisal of the personal property according to the requirements of sections 525.33 and 525.331.

[1935 c. 72 s. 76] (8992-76)

**525.303 TERMINATION OF POWERS.** Upon the granting of letters testamentary or of general administration, the power of a special administrator shall cease unless otherwise expressly ordered by the court.

[1935 c. 72 s. 77] (8992-77)

**525.304 FINAL ACCOUNT AND DISCHARGE.** Upon the termination of his power, a special administrator shall file his final account with his petition for the settlement and allowance thereof. The court with or without notice shall adjust, correct, settle, and allow or disallow such account. Upon allowance of the account and upon the filing of vouchers for all disbursements, and the balance, if any, having been paid to the person entitled thereto, the court shall discharge such special administrator and his sureties.

[1935 c. 72 s. 78] (8992-78)

#### DETERMINATION OF DESCENT

**525.31 ESSENTIALS.** Whenever any person has been dead for more than five years and has left real or personal property, or any interest therein, and no will or authenticated copy of a will duly proved and allowed outside this state in accordance with the laws in force in the place where proved has been admitted to probate nor administration had in this state; any person interested in the estate or claiming an interest in such real or personal property, or any interest therein, may petition the probate court of the county of the decedent's residence or of the county wherein such real or personal property, or any part thereof is situated to determine the descent of such property and to assign such property to the persons entitled thereto.

[1935 c 72 s 79; 1941 c 444 s 1; 1949 c 659 s 1] (8992-79)

**525.311 CONTENTS OF PETITION.** Such petition shall show so far as known to the petitioner:

(1) The name of the decedent, his place of residence, the date and place of his death, his age and address at such date, and whether he died testate or intestate;

(2) The names, ages, and addresses of his heirs, executors, legatees, and devisees;

(3) That no will or authenticated copy of a will duly proved and allowed outside of this state in accordance with the laws in force in the place where proved has been admitted to probate nor administration had in this state;

(4) A description of the real or personal property, or interest therein and if a homestead, designated as such, the interest therein of the decedent, the value thereof at the date of his death, and the interest therein of the petitioner;

(5) If the decedent left a will which has not been admitted to probate in this state, such will or authenticated copy of a will duly proved and allowed outside of this state in accordance with the laws in force in the place where proved shall be filed and the petition shall contain a prayer for its admission to probate.

[1935 c 72 s 80; 1941 c 444 s 2; 1949 c 659 s 2] (8992-80)

**525.312 DECREE OF DESCENT.** Upon the filing of such petition, the court shall fix the time and place for the hearing thereof, notice of which shall be given pursuant to section 525.83. Upon proof of the petition and of the will if there be one, or upon proof of the petition and of an authenticated copy of a will duly proved and allowed outside of this state in accordance with the laws in force in the place where proved if there be one, the court shall allow the same and enter its decree assigning the real or personal property, or any interest therein, to the persons entitled thereto pursuant to the will or such authenticated copy if there be one, otherwise pursuant to the laws of intestate succession in force at the time of the decedent's death. The court may appoint two or more disinterested persons to

appraise the property. No decree shall be entered until the inheritance tax, if any, has been determined and paid.

[1935 c 72 s 81; 1937 c 435 s 11; 1941 c 444 s 3; 1949 c 659 s 3] (8992-81)

**525.314 OMITTED PROPERTY ASSIGNED.** Whenever real or personal property or any interest therein has been omitted from probate proceedings or from a decree or has been incorrectly described therein and the time for appeal from such decree has expired, any person interested in the estate or claiming an interest in such property may petition the Probate Court of the county in which such proceedings were had for a decree to determine its descent and to assign it to the persons entitled thereto.

[1949 c 696 s 1]

**525.315 PETITION, CONTENTS OF.** Such petition shall show so far as known to the petitioner:

1. The name of the decedent, his place of residence, the date and place of his death, his age and address at such date, and whether he died testate or intestate, the county in which such probate proceedings were had, and the date of any prior decrees.

2. The names, present ages, and addresses of his heirs, legatees, and devisees.

3. The real or personal property or any interest therein that has been omitted from the probate proceedings or from the decree or incorrectly described therein and whether the same was omitted or incorrectly described.

4. The correct description of the property, and, if real property whether the same was a homestead or not, the value of the property, the encumbrances, if any, at the time of his death, the claims allowed or balance thereof, if any, unpaid in the prior administration, whether or not the property was subject to inheritance tax, and the interest therein of the petitioner.

[1949 c 696 s 2]

**525.316 SUMMARY DECREE; INHERITANCE TAX; APPRAISAL.** Upon the filing of such petition the court may summarily, and with or without notice, decree the property and assign it to the persons entitled thereto, if in the prior probate proceedings the persons entitled to such property were determined and claims of creditors allowed were paid in full. In all other cases the court may hear and determine the matter and decree the property and assign it to the persons entitled thereto upon such notice as it requires. If such property is subject to inheritance tax or if claims of creditors allowed in prior proceedings have not been paid in full the court may require the petitioner to submit evidence of the value of such property in such form as the court directs and may appoint two disinterested persons to appraise the property and, if necessary, appoint a representative to complete the proceedings. No decree shall be entered until the inheritance tax, if any, has been determined and paid.

[1949 c 696 s 3]

## BONDS

**525.32 FILING BOND.** Every representative, except as provided by sections 525.551 and 48.82, before entering upon the duties of his trust shall file a bond in such amount as the court directs, with sufficient sureties, conditioned upon the faithful discharge of all the duties of his trust according to law.

[1935 c. 72 s. 82] (8992-82)

**525.321 JOINT OR SEPARATE BONDS.** When two or more persons are appointed joint representatives the court may approve a separate bond from each or a joint bond from all.

[1935 c. 72 s. 83] (8992-83)

**525.322 APPROVAL AND PROSECUTION.** Except as otherwise expressly provided, all bonds in proceedings in the probate court shall be approved by the judge and shall run to such judge and his successors in office. In case of breach of any condition thereof an action on the bond may be prosecuted by leave of the court in the name and for the benefit of any person interested.

[1935 c. 72 s. 84] (8992-84)

**525.323 INCREASE AND REDUCTION.** The court on its own motion or upon the petition of any person interested in the estate may require a bond in addition to or in lieu of any bond on file. Upon the settlement and allowance of an account, the liability under the new bond shall be limited to the property with which the

representative is chargeable at the time of such settlement and allowance, and to the acts and omissions of the representative occurring thereafter. When an account is settled and allowed and the bond is found to be more than sufficient, the court may reduce the amount of the bond or cancel any bond found to be unnecessary.

[1935 c. 72 s. 85] (8992-85)

**525.324 DISCHARGE ON SURETY'S APPLICATION.** Upon application of any surety, the court shall order the representative to account and to file a new bond. Upon the settlement and allowance of the account and the filing of the new bond, the surety shall be discharged.

[1935 c. 72 s. 86] (8992-86)

#### MANAGEMENT OF ESTATE; INVENTORY, APPRAISAL

**525.33 CONTENTS OF INVENTORY.** Within one month after his appointment unless a longer time has been granted by the court, every representative shall make and exhibit to the court a verified inventory of all the estate of the decedent or ward which shall have come to his possession or knowledge. Such property shall be classified therein as follows: (1) real estate, with plat or survey description, and if a homestead, designated as such, (2) furniture and household goods, (3) wearing apparel, (4) corporation stocks described by certificate numbers, (5) mortgages, bonds, notes, and other written evidence of debt, described by name of debtor, recording data, or other identification, (6) all other personal property accurately identified. All encumbrances, liens, and other charges on any item shall be stated.

[1935 c. 72 s. 87] (8992-87)

**525.331 APPRAISAL.** If the inventory lists no property other than moneys of the United States, no appraisal shall be required; otherwise, the property shall be appraised at its full and fair value as of the date of death, or in a guardianship as of the date of the appointment of the guardian, by two or more disinterested persons appointed by the court. Within two months after appointment unless a longer time has been granted by the court, the appraisers shall set down in figures opposite each item after deducting the encumbrances, liens, and charges, the net value thereof and show the total amount of each class, and of all classes, and forthwith deliver such inventory and appraisal certified by them, to the representative who shall immediately file the same. Such appraisers shall be allowed such reasonable fees, necessary disbursements, and expenses as may be fixed by the court and be paid by the representative as expenses of administration or guardianship.

[1935 c. 72 s. 88] (8992-88)

#### COLLECTION OF ASSETS

**525.34 POSSESSION.** Every representative shall be entitled to the possession of and charged with all property of the decedent which has not been set apart for the surviving spouse or children. He shall collect the rents and earnings thereon until the estate is settled or until delivered by order of the court to the heirs, legatees, or devisees. He shall keep in tenable repair all buildings and fixtures under his control. He may, by himself or with the heirs or devisees, maintain an action for the possession of the real estate or to quiet title to the same.

[1935 c. 72 s. 89] (8992-89)

**525.35 LIMITATION; LIABILITY OF REPRESENTATIVE.** No representative shall make a profit by the increase, nor suffer loss by the decrease or destruction without his fault, of any part of the estate, but he shall account for the excess when he sells for more than the appraisal and shall not be responsible for the loss when he sells for less if such sale appears to be beneficial to the estate. He shall not be accountable for debts due the decedent which remain uncollected without fault on his part; but if he neglects or unreasonably delays to raise money by collecting debts or selling property, or neglects to pay over the money in his hands and by reason thereof the value of the estate is lessened, or unnecessary costs, interest, or penalties accrue, or the persons interested suffer loss, the same shall be deemed waste and the representative shall be charged in his account with the damages sustained. He shall not purchase any claim against the estate nor shall he purchase directly or indirectly or be interested in the purchase of any property sold by him.

[1935 c. 72 s. 90] (8992-90)

**525.36 ACCORD WITH DEBTOR.** When it appears for the best interest of the estate the representative may on order of the court effect a fair and reasonable compromise with any debtor or other obligor.

[1935 c. 72 s. 91] (8992-91)

**525.37 FORECLOSURE OF MORTGAGES.** The representative shall have the same right to foreclose a mortgage, lien, or pledge or collect the debt secured thereby as the decedent would have had, if living, or the ward would have had, if competent, and he may complete any such proceeding commenced by such decedent or ward.

[1935 c. 72 s. 92] (8992-92)

**525.38 REALTY ACQUIRED.** When a foreclosure sale or a sale on execution for the recovery of a debt due the estate is had or redemption is made the representative shall receive the money paid and execute the necessary satisfaction or release. If bid in by the representative or if bid in by the decedent or ward and the redemption period expired during the administration of the estate or guardianship without redemption, the real estate shall be treated as personal property, but any sale, mortgage, or lease thereof shall be made pursuant to sections 525.62 to 525.702, unless otherwise provided in the will. If not so sold, mortgaged, or leased, the real estate or, if so sold, mortgaged, or leased, the proceeds shall be assigned or distributed to the same persons and in the same proportions as if it had been part of the personal estate of the decedent, unless otherwise provided in the will.

[1935 c. 72 s. 93; 1937 c. 435 s. 12] (8992-93)

**525.39 PROPERTY SET APART.** After the inventory and appraisal has been filed the surviving spouse or, in case there be none, the children, or when they are minors, their guardian, may petition the court to set apart the homestead and the personal property allowed in section 525.15. Such petition shall show the names, ages, and relationship of the parties, a description of the homestead claimed and of the personal property selected, and the appraised value thereof. Upon proof of such petition, the court shall set apart such homestead and personal property. The property so set apart shall be delivered by the representative to the persons entitled thereto, and shall not be treated as assets in his hands, but the homestead shall be included in the partial or final decree of distribution.

[1935 c. 72 s. 94] (8992-94)

**525.391 PROPERTY FRAUDULENTLY CONVEYED.** When the property available for the payment of debts is insufficient to pay the same in full, the representative may recover any property which the decedent may have disposed of with intent to defraud his creditors, or by conveyance or transfer which for any reason is void as to them. Upon the application of any creditor and upon making the payment of or providing security for the expenses thereof as directed by the court, the representative shall prosecute all actions necessary to recover the property.

[1935 c. 72 s. 95] (8992-95)

**525.392 PROPERTY CONVERTED.** If any person embezzles, alienates, or converts to his own use any of the personal estate of a decedent or ward before the appointment of a representative, such person shall be liable for double the value of the property so embezzled, alienated, or converted.

[1935 c. 72 s. 96] (8992-96)

**525.393 DISPOSAL BY CORONER.** When personal property of a decedent has come into the custody of any coroner and has not been surrendered as hereinafter provided and no will has been admitted to probate or no administration has been had within three months after the decedent's death, the coroner, after the expiration of said time, shall file in the probate court an inventory of all such property and a finger-print of each finger of each hand of the decedent. Wearing apparel and such other property as the coroner determines to be of nominal value, may be surrendered by the coroner to the spouse or to any blood relative of the decedent. If no will is admitted to probate nor administration had within six months after death, the coroner shall sell the same at public auction upon such notice and in such manner as the court may direct. He shall be allowed reasonable expenses for the care and sale of the property, and shall deposit the net proceeds of such sale with the county treasurer in the name of the decedent, if known. The treasurer shall give the coroner duplicate receipts therefor, one of which he shall file with the county auditor and the other in the court. If a representative shall qualify

within six years from the time of such deposit, the treasurer upon order of the court shall pay the same to such representative.

[1935 c 72 s 97; *Ex*1936 c 48] (8992-97)

**525.40 CONTINUATION OF BUSINESS.** Upon a showing of advantage to the estate the court, with or without notice, may authorize a representative to continue and operate any business of a decedent or ward for the benefit of his estate, under such conditions, restrictions, regulations, and requirements, and for such period of time as the court may determine.

[1935 c. 72 s. 98] (8992-98)

**525.401 ABANDONMENT OF PROPERTY.** When any property is valueless, or is so encumbered, or is in such condition that it is of no benefit to the estate, the court, upon such notice as it may direct to be given, may order the representative to abandon the same.

[1935 c. 72 s. 99] (8992-99)

### CLAIMS

**525.41 NOTICE TO CREDITORS.** In the order for hearing a petition for the probate of a will or for general administration or in a subsequent order, the court shall limit the time for creditors to file claims and fix the time and place for the hearing on such claims, notice of which shall be given pursuant to section 525.83. The time so limited shall be four months from the date of the filing of such order. If it appears from the petition that the decedent left no property except such as may be allowed to the spouse and children under section 525.15, or such as is exempt from the claims of creditors, or such as may be recovered in an action for death by wrongful act, or if more than five years have elapsed since the decedent's death, no order in respect to claims need be made.

[1935 c. 72 s. 100] (8992-100)

**525.411 FILING OF CLAIMS.** Subdivision 1. All claims against a decedent arising upon contract, whether due or not due, shall be barred forever unless filed in court within the time limited. For cause shown and upon notice to the representative, unless such notice be waived by the representative in writing, and upon such further notice as the court may deem advisable, the court may at any time before the final settlement and allowance of the representative's account, permit the filing of a claim and hear and allow such claim provided that the same has been presented for filing before such final settlement and allowance and within one year after the date of the filing of the order to file claims.

Subd. 2. Contingent claims arising upon contract which do not become absolute and capable of liquidation within the time limited shall not be filed. Any such contingent claim which becomes absolute and capable of liquidation after the expiration of the time limited but before the settlement and allowance of the final account may be filed and heard on notice to the representative, if the court in its discretion shall so order, notwithstanding the provisions of section 525.431. If allowed it shall be paid as other claims, but only out of the assets with which the representative is chargeable at the time of the filing of such claim. No such claim shall be so filed or allowed unless administration of the estate was commenced within five years after the death of the decedent.

Subd. 3. Claims shall be itemized and verified and shall show the address of the claimant and all payments and offsets known to the claimant. Any such claim may be pleaded as an offset or counterclaim in any action brought against the claimant by the representative. On or before the hearing on claims, the representative shall file a statement of all offsets claimed.

[1935 c 72 s 101; 1961 c 14 s 1] (8992-101)

**525.412 JOINT DEBTOR.** When two or more persons are indebted on any joint contract, or upon a judgment founded on a joint contract, and one of them dies, his estate shall be liable therefor, and the amount thereof may be allowed by the court the same as though the contract had been joint and several or the judgment had been against him alone, but without prejudice to right to contribution.

[1935 c. 72 s. 102] (8992-102)

**525.413 CLAIMS BARRED.** No claim or offset thereto shall be allowed which was barred by the statute of limitations during the decedent's lifetime.

[1935 c. 72 s. 103; 1939 c. 270 s. 4] (8992-103)



**525.42 ADJUDICATION OF CLAIMS.** Subdivision 1. Upon the adjudication of any claim, the court shall make its order allowing or disallowing the same, which order shall have the effect of a judgment. Such order shall show the date of adjudication, the amount allowed, the amount disallowed, and shall be attached to the claim and the offsets, if any.

Subd. 2. For the purposes of this section the statute of limitations shall not run against an allowed claim while administration is pending.

Subd. 3. An allowed claim shall bear interest at the legal rate.

[1935 c 72 s 104; 1949 c 692 s 1] (8992-104)

**525.421 EXECUTION ON OFFSET.** When a balance is allowed against a claimant, the court may issue execution for such balance, which shall be collected in the same manner as an execution issued out of the district court.

[1935 c. 72 s. 105] (8992-105)

**525.43 ACTIONS PENDING.** All actions wherein the cause of action survives may be prosecuted to final judgment, notwithstanding the death of any party, and in such case the representative may be substituted therein in the stead of the deceased party. If judgment be rendered against the representative, it may be certified to the probate court and shall be then paid in the same manner as other claims against the estate. The defendant in any action commenced by a decedent or representative may set off a claim against the decedent's estate notwithstanding such claim has not been filed in the probate court.

[1935 c. 72 s. 106] (8992-106)

**525.431 ACTIONS PRECLUDED.** No action at law shall lie against a representative for the recovery of money upon any claim required to be filed by section 525.411. Except as provided in section 525.411 with reference to contingent claims, no claim against a decedent shall be a charge upon his estate unless filed in the probate court within five years after his death and within the time limited under section 525.41 or extended under section 525.411. Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing an action to enforce a lien existing at the date of decedent's death nor as affecting the rights of a creditor to recover from the next of kin, legatees, or devisees to the extent of the assets received, upon any claim not required to be filed by section 525.411, or upon any contingent claim arising upon contract which did not become absolute and capable of liquidation until after the time limited under section 525.41 or extended under section 525.411 or until five years after the death of the decedent.

[1935 c. 72 s. 107] (8992-107)

**525.44 PRIORITY OF DEBTS.** If the applicable assets of the estate be insufficient to pay the following in full, the representative shall make payment in this order:

- (1) Expenses of administration;
- (2) Funeral expenses;
- (3) Expenses of last illness;
- (4) Debts having preference by laws of the United States;
- (5) Taxes;
- (6) Other debts duly proved.

[1935 c. 72 s. 108] (8992-108)

**525.441 SECURED DEBTS.** When a claimant holds any security for his debt, he may file his claim, which may be allowed conditioned upon the claimant surrendering the security to the representative or exhausting the security. In either case, a report thereof shall be filed within the time fixed by the court. Upon his failure to comply with the order, the claim shall be disallowed. Upon his compliance with the order, the court shall make a final order on such claim, either allowing it in full if the security has been surrendered, or for any remaining amount found to be due on the debt if the security has been exhausted. The claim so allowed shall be paid as other debts duly proved.

[1935 c. 72 s. 109] (8992-109)

**525.442 ENCUMBERED ASSETS.** When any assets of the estate are encumbered by mortgage, pledge, or otherwise, the representative may pay such encumbrance or any part thereof, whether or not the holder of the encumbrance has filed a claim, if it appears to be for the best interest of the estate and if the court, with or without notice, shall have so ordered. No such payment shall increase the share

of the devisee, legatee, or heir entitled to receive such encumbered assets, unless otherwise provided in the will.

[1935 c. 72 s. 110] (8992-110)

**525.45 PREFERENCES PROHIBITED.** No preference shall be given in the payment of any debt over any other debt of the same class, nor shall a debt due and payable be entitled to preference over debts not due.

[1935 c. 72 s. 111] (8992-111)

**525.46 PAYMENT UNDER WILL.** When a will designates the property to be appropriated for the payment of debts or other items, it shall be applied to such purpose.

[1935 c. 72 s. 112] (8992-112)

#### ACCOUNTING, DISTRIBUTION

**525.47 DURATION OF ADMINISTRATION.** Every executor, general administrator, or administrator with the will annexed shall have one year from the date of his appointment for the settlement of the estate. A special administrator or an administrator de bonis non shall have such time not exceeding one year as the court may determine. For cause shown the period herein limited may be extended by the court, not exceeding one year at a time. The representative shall not be disqualified thereafter in any way, unless removed; but he shall not be relieved from any loss, liability, or penalty incurred by his failure to settle the estate within the time limited.

[1935 c. 72 s. 113] (8992-113)

**525.48 FILING OF ACCOUNT.** Within the time limited every representative shall file a verified account of his administration and petition the court to settle and allow his account and to assign the estate to the persons entitled thereto. The representative shall also account at such other times as the court may require; the hearing on such account shall be had upon such notice as the court may direct.

[1935 c 72 s 114] (8992-114)

**525.481 HEARING AND DECREE.** Upon the filing of such petition, the court shall fix the time and place for the hearing thereof, notice of which shall be given pursuant to section 525.83, except as provided in sections 525.304, 525.48 and 525.51. Unless otherwise ordered, the representative shall, and other persons may, be examined relative to the account and the distribution of the estate. If all taxes payable by the estate have been paid so far as there are funds to pay them and the account is correct, it shall be settled and allowed; if incorrect, it shall be corrected and then settled and allowed.

Upon such settlement and allowance the court shall determine the persons entitled to the estate and assign the same to them by its decree. The decree shall name the heirs and the distributees, state their relationship to the decedent, describe the property and state the proportion or part thereof to which each is entitled. In the estate of a testate decedent, no heirs shall be named in the decree unless all of the heirs be ascertained. No final decree shall be entered until all inheritance taxes for the payment of which the representative is liable as shown by the inheritance tax return provided for in section 291.09 have been paid. If the commissioner of taxation shall have filed objections to the inheritance tax return as provided in section 291.09, no final decree shall be entered until such objections have been heard and determined unless the court determines that the collection of additional inheritance taxes for which the representative is liable will not be jeopardized. The court shall have the power in its decree to waive the lien of inheritance taxes on the property distributed and either the probate court or the commissioner of taxation shall have the power to issue certificates waiving such lien or acknowledging payment of all such taxes and discharging the lien at any time.

If all of the creditors have consented, in writing, the court, with or without notice, may assign the estate, if insolvent, without conversion thereof into money, to such creditors in the proportions to which each is entitled.

If any liquidated demand for money arising on contract or if any unsatisfied judgment for the payment of money, whether or not unenforceable because of lapse of time or discharge in bankruptcy, exists in favor of decedent at the time of his death against an heir, legatee, or devisee, and not forgiven or otherwise specifically disposed of in the will, or if any judgment recovered by the representative against an heir, legatee, or devisee has not been paid during administra-

tion, the amount thereof shall be considered a part of the estate for purposes of distribution and taken by such heir, legatee, or devisee as a part of his share of the personalty.

If such amount exceeds such beneficiary's share of the personalty, the real property assigned to him shall be subjected in the decree to a lien in favor of the other heirs or beneficiaries in accordance with their respective shares.

If such demand or judgment became unenforceable prior to decedent's death, no interest after it became unenforceable shall be included and the total amount charged against such heirs, legatee, or devisee shall in no event exceed the value of his share of the estate. In the event of an escheat of part of the estate no such lien shall be imposed upon any other part of the estate in favor of the state of Minnesota.

Any beneficiary hereunder shall not be required to pay any inheritance tax and no inheritance tax shall be payable as to him on that part of the estate created by the set-off hereinbefore provided and inherited by the beneficiary, which the beneficiary would not otherwise have been required by law to pay because the demand so set off was unenforceable as to the beneficiary because of lapse of time or a discharge in bankruptcy.

Upon its own motion or upon the request of any party, without the determination or payment of inheritance taxes, the court may enter into an interlocutory decree, determining the persons entitled to the estate, naming the heirs and distributees, stating their relationship to the decedent, describing the property and stating the proportion or part thereof to which each is entitled. Such interlocutory decree shall be final as to the persons entitled to distribution, and as to the part or portion of the estate each is entitled to receive, but it shall not have the effect of assigning the estate to such persons.

[1935 c 72 s 115; 1937 c 435 s 13; 1939 c 270 s 5; 1963 c 740 s 22] (8992-115)

**525.482 PARTIAL DISTRIBUTION.** A partial distribution of an estate may be made before final settlement in the manner and upon the notice provided for final distribution. No decree of partial distribution shall be entered until after the determination and payment of inheritance taxes sufficient to cover the property thereby distributed. Such decree shall be final as to the persons entitled to such distribution and as to their proportions, and except where such decree includes only specific bequests or devises, as to the persons entitled to, and their proportions of the whole estate. No distribution shall be made until after the expiration of the time limited for the filing of claims, nor until a bond satisfactory to the court has been filed to secure the payment of unpaid claims and bequests, and the unpaid expenses of the administration, funeral, and last illness, and taxes.

[1935 c 72 s 116; 1963 c 740 s 23] (8992-116)

**525.483 RECORDING DECREE.** A certified copy of any decree of distribution may be filed for record in the office of the register of deeds of any county. It shall not be necessary to pay real estate taxes in order to record such certified copy, but the same shall be first presented to the county auditor for entry upon his transfer record and shall have noted thereon "Transfer entered" over his official signature. Upon request, the court shall furnish a certified copy of any decree of distribution, omitting the description of any property except that specified in the request, but indicating omissions by the words "other property omitted." Such copy and its record shall have the same force and effect as to property therein described as though the entire decree had been so certified and recorded.

[1935 c. 72 s. 117] (8992-117)

**525.484 PROPERTY OF DECEASED PERSONS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN CERTAIN CASES.** Whenever any person who is declared by a decree of a probate court to be entitled to any property in an estate is a citizen of and a resident in any foreign country with the government of which the United States maintains diplomatic relations the representative of the estate may deliver or pay such property to an accredited diplomatic or consular representative of the government of such foreign country for delivery or payment to such person declared entitled thereto by such decree, or, if such money has been deposited with the county treasurer pursuant to section 525.52, the probate court upon application as therein provided shall grant its order authorizing and directing the county auditor to issue his warrant to the county treasurer to pay such money or deliver such property to such accredited diplomatic or consular representative, and the representative of such estate or the county treasurer shall

be discharged from his trust and all further liability thereunder upon filing the receipt of such diplomatic or consular representative for such property with such probate court, provided that such diplomatic or consular representative has been licensed by proper federal authority to receive such property of the nationals of such country, where such license is required.

This section shall not apply where such citizen of and resident in any such foreign country has appeared in person or by duly authorized representative other than such diplomatic or consular representative.

[1943 c 477 s 1, 2]

**525.485 PARTITION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY.** When upon the hearing of any petition for the distribution of any personal property in any estate of any decedent, it appears to the court that two or more distributees are entitled to the distribution of undivided interests in such property, the court, upon petition of the representative of said estate, may issue its decree dividing such property, designating particular assets to each distributee, and allocating and distributing like or unlike property, or shares thereof, in accordance with their respective rights to share in said estate; provided that each such distributee has filed his written consent thereto.

[1963 c 722 s 1]

**525.49 M.S. 1957 [Repealed, 1961 c 265 s 3]**

**525.49 ALLOWANCE TO REPRESENTATIVE.** Every representative shall be allowed his necessary expenses incurred in the execution of his trust and shall have such compensation for his services as the court shall deem just and reasonable. An attorney performing services for the estate at the instance of the representative shall have such compensation therefor out of the estate as the court shall deem just and reasonable. Where, upon demand the representative refuses to prosecute or pursue a claim or asset of the estate or a claim is made against him on behalf of the estate and any party interested shall then by his own attorney prosecute or pursue and recover such fund or asset for the benefit of the estate, such attorney shall be allowed such compensation out of the estate as the court shall deem just and reasonable and commensurate with the benefit to the estate from the recovery so made. If a decedent by will makes provision for the compensation of his executor, that shall be taken as his full compensation unless he files a written instrument renouncing all claim for the compensation provided for in the will. Such amounts shall be allowed as credits to the representative in his account or at any time during administration, the representative may apply to the court by petition for an order directing the payment of his compensation (in whole or in part) out of the estate, and any attorney having rendered services, as aforesaid, may by petition apply to the court for an order directing the payment to him (in whole or in part) of such attorney's fees out of the estate. Upon payment by the representative of the whole amount allowed his attorney by the court the representative shall be fully released and discharged from all liability on account of such attorney's services.

When any person named as executor in a will or codicil defends it or prosecutes any proceedings in good faith and with just cause, for the purpose of having it admitted to probate, whether successful or not, or if any person successfully oppose the allowance of any will or codicil, he shall be allowed out of the estate his necessary expenses and disbursements in such proceedings together with such compensation for his services and those of his attorneys as the court shall deem just and proper.

[1961 c 265 s 1]

**525.491 M.S. 1957 [Repealed, 1961 c 265 s 3]**

**525.491 ATTORNEY'S LIEN.** When any attorney at law has been retained to appear for any heir, devisee, or legatee, such attorney may perfect his lien upon the client's interest in the estate for compensation for such services as he may have rendered respecting such interest, by serving upon the representative before the decree of distribution, is made, a notice of his intent to claim a lien for his agreed compensation, or the reasonable value of his services, and by filing such notice with proof of service thereof. The perfecting of such a lien, as herein provided, shall have the same effect as the perfecting of a lien as provided in section 481.13, and such lien may be enforced and the amount thereupon determined in the manner therein provided.

[1961 c 265 s 2]

**525.50 RESIGNATION OF REPRESENTATIVE.** A representative may resign his trust at any time, but his resignation shall not be operative until the court shall have examined and allowed his final account and has made an order accepting such resignation.

[1935 c. 72 s. 120] (8992-120)

**525.501 REMOVAL OF REPRESENTATIVE.** When a representative becomes insane or otherwise mentally incompetent, or unsuitable, incompetent, or incapable of discharging his trust, or has mismanaged the estate, or has failed to perform any duty imposed by law or by any lawful order of the court, or has absconded, or has ceased to be a resident of this state, the court may remove him. The court on its own motion may, and on the petition of any person interested in the estate shall, order the representative to appear and show cause why he should not be removed. Service of such order may be made either upon the representative or his sureties, personally or by mailing a copy to him or any of them at the address given in the file, or in such other manner as the court may direct.

[1935 c 72 s 121; 1937 c 435 s 14] (8992-121)

**525.502 DISCHARGE UPON RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL.** Notwithstanding the resignation of a representative or his removal by the court, he and his surety shall not be discharged from liability until a successor has been appointed and qualified and has receipted for the unadministered property.

[1935 c. 72 s. 122] (8992-122)

**525.503 ACCOUNT OF DECEASED, MENTALLY INCOMPETENT, DISABLED OR REMOVED REPRESENTATIVE.** When a sole or last surviving representative is removed, becomes mentally incompetent or disabled, or dies, he, his surety or his representative, upon appointment, shall file a verified final account and petition for the settlement and allowances thereof, and if proper, for distribution. If the estate has not been fully administered, the surety shall not be discharged until a successor has been appointed and qualified and receipted for the unadministered property.

[1935 c 72 s 123; 1961 c 574 s 1] (8992-123)

**525.504 DISCHARGE OF REPRESENTATIVE; PROPERTY OF MINORS.** When any representative has paid or transferred to the persons entitled thereto all of the property in the estate, paid all taxes required to be paid by him and has filed proof thereof, and has complied with all the orders and decrees of the court and with the provisions of law, and has otherwise fully discharged his trust, the court shall finally discharge him and his sureties. The court shall have complete jurisdiction over the representative and may require him to account at any time until his final discharge, whether a final decree has been entered or not. When any bequest or devise to a testamentary trustee amounts to more than \$1,000, the representative may not be discharged until a trustee is qualified in a court of competent jurisdiction and until proof of the qualification and a receipt by the trustee are filed, unless the will contains a waiver of qualification in which case the court may approve and accept such waiver of qualification. No representative who has received any funds for death by wrongful act may be discharged until he files a certified copy of the order, judgment, or decree of distribution of the court wherein the funds were recovered, and vouchers from the persons entitled thereto, or copies thereof, certified by the clerk of court.

When a minor child receives or is entitled to personal property not exceeding \$5,000 in value, the judge of probate court may order and direct representatives of estates or guardianships to make payment of not to exceed \$1,000 thereof to the parent or parents, custodian, or the person, corporation, or institution with whom the minor child is, for the benefit, support, maintenance, and education of the minor child or may direct the deposit of the whole or any part thereof in a savings account in a bank, savings bank, a building and loan association, or a savings and loan association having deposit insurance, in the name of the minor child. When so deposited the book showing the deposit is to be kept as provided by the probate court. No funds shall be withdrawn from this savings account until the minor child reaches majority, except by order of the probate court. The court may authorize the use of any part or all thereof to purchase United States government savings bonds in the minor's name, the bonds to be

kept as provided by the probate court and to be retained until the minor reaches majority unless otherwise authorized by an order of the probate court.

[1935 c 72 s 124; 1937 c 435 s 15; 1953 c 23 s 1; 1955 c 256 s 1; 1965 c 720 s 1] (8992-124)

**525.51 SUMMARY PROCEEDINGS.** In a special administration, general administration, or in the administration of the estate of a person dying testate, if the court has determined that the decedent had no estate, or that the property has been destroyed, abandoned, lost, or rendered valueless, and that no recovery has been had nor can be had therefor, or if there be no property except such as has been recovered for death by wrongful act, or such as is exempt from all debts and charges in the probate court, or such as may be appropriated for the payment of the allowances to the spouse and children mentioned in section 525.15, expenses of administration, funeral expenses, expenses of last illness, debts having preference under laws of the United States, and taxes, the representative by order of the court may pay the same in the order named, and file his final account with his petition for the settlement and allowance thereof. Thereupon the court with or without notice may adjust, correct, settle, allow, or disallow such account, and if the account be allowed, summarily determine the heirs, legatees, and devisees in its final decree assigning to them their share or part of the property with which the representative is charged upon the allowance of his final account, and close the administration.

If upon hearing of a petition for summary assignment or distribution, for special administration, general administration, or for the probate of a will, the court determines that there is no need for the appointment of a representative and that the administration should be closed summarily for the reason that all of the property in the estate is exempt from all debts and charges in the probate court, a final decree may be entered, with or without notice, assigning such property to the persons entitled thereto pursuant to the terms of the will, or if there be none, pursuant to the law of intestate succession in force at the time of the decedent's death.

[1935 c. 72 s. 125; 1937 c. 435 s. 16] (8992-125)

**525.52 UNCLAIMED MONEY.** If any part of the money on hand has not been paid over because the person entitled thereto cannot be found or refuses to accept the same, or for any other good and sufficient reason the same has not been paid over, the court may direct the representative to deposit the same with the county treasurer, taking duplicate receipts therefor, one of which he shall file with the county auditor and the other in the court. If the money on hand exceeds the sum of \$2,000, the court may direct the representative to purchase with the money bearer bonds of the United States government or of the State of Minnesota, or any of its political subdivisions, which bonds shall be deposited with the county treasurer, taking duplicate receipts therefor, one of which he shall file with the county auditor and the other in the court, and the county treasurer shall collect the interest on these bonds as it becomes due, and the money so collected or deposited shall be credited to the county revenue fund. Upon application to the probate court within 21 years after such deposit, and upon notice to the county attorney and county treasurer, the court may direct the county auditor to issue to the person entitled thereto his warrant for the amount of the money so on deposit including the interest collected on bonds and, in the case of bonds, the county auditor shall issue to the person entitled thereto his order upon the county treasurer to deliver the bonds. No interest shall be allowed or paid thereon, except as herein provided, and if not claimed within such time no recovery thereof shall be had. The county treasurer, with the approval of the probate court, may make necessary sales, exchanges, substitutions, and transfers of bonds deposited, as aforesaid, and may present the same for redemption and invest the proceeds in other bonds of like character.

[1935 c 72 s 126; 1941 c 231 s 1] (8992-126)

**525.521 FEDERAL ESTATE OR OTHER DEATH TAXES, APPORTIONMENT.** Whenever it appears upon any accounting, or in any appropriate action or proceeding, that an executor, administrator, temporary administrator, testamentary trustee or other person acting in a fiduciary capacity, hereafter called "fiduciary," has paid or may be required to pay an estate tax or other death tax under any law of the United States upon or with respect to any property required to be included in the gross taxable estate of a decedent under the provisions of any such

law, hereinafter called "the tax," the amount of the tax, except in a case where a testator otherwise directs in his will, and except in a case where by any instrument other than a will, hereinafter called a "nontestamentary instrument," direction is given for apportionment within the fund of taxes assessed upon the specific fund dealt with in such nontestamentary instrument, shall be apportioned among the persons interested in the gross tax estate whether residents or non-residents of the state to whom such property is or may be transferred or to whom any benefit therein accrues, hereinafter called the "persons benefited," in accordance with the rules of apportionment herein stated, and the persons benefited shall contribute to the tax the amounts apportioned against them.

[1961 c 698 s 1]

**525.522 TRUSTS OR OTHER TEMPORARY INTERESTS.** In the absence of direction to the contrary, where a trust is created, or other provision made whereby any person is given an interest in income, or an estate for years, or for life, or other temporary interest in any property or fund, and tax apportionable against both such temporary interest and the remainder thereafter shall be charged against and shall be paid out of the corpus of such property or such fund without apportionment between remainders and temporary estates. Provisions of this section shall apply notwithstanding that the holder of the temporary interest is given rights to the corpus, but shall not apply to a common law annuity.

[1961 c 698 s 2]

**525.523 METHOD OF APPORTIONMENT.** In the absence of directions to the contrary, (i) apportionment of the tax shall be made among the persons benefited in the proportion that the value of the property or interest received by each such person benefited bears the total value of the property and interest received by all persons benefited, the values as finally determined in the respective tax proceedings being the values to be used as the basis for apportionment of the respective taxes; (ii) any exemption or deduction allowed under the law imposing the tax by reason of the relationship of any person to the decedent or by reason of the charitable purposes of the gift shall inure to the benefit of the person bearing such relationship or receiving such charitable gifts, as the case may be; (iii) any deduction for property previously taxed and any credit for gift taxes paid by the decedent shall inure to the benefit of all persons benefited, and the tax to be apportioned shall be the tax after allowance of such deduction and credit; (iv) any interest resulting from late payment of the tax shall be apportioned in the same manner as the tax and shall be charged wholly to corpus; and (v) any discount allowed for prepayment of the tax shall be credited wholly to the corpus of the fund or funds contributing the money used for the prepayment in proportion to the contribution made.

[1961 c 698 s 3]

**525.524 DIRECTIONS AS TO APPORTIONMENT; LIMITATIONS.** Any direction as to apportionment or nonapportionment of the tax, whether contained in a will or in a nontestamentary instrument, shall be limited in its operation to the property passing thereunder unless such will or instrument otherwise directs.

[1961 c 698 s 4]

**525.525 PROPERTY NOT COMING INTO POSSESSION OF FIDUCIARY.** In all cases in which any property required to be included in the gross tax estate does not come into the possession of the fiduciary, he shall be entitled, and it shall be his duty, to recover from the persons benefited or from whoever is in possession of such property, the proportionate amounts of the tax and any interest which is or may be payable by the persons benefited, and the probate court may by order direct the payment thereof to the fiduciary. The probate court may by order charge such payment against the shares or interest of the persons benefited in any assets in the hands of the fiduciary or persons in possession of this property. If the fiduciary cannot recover the amount of the tax and interest apportioned against a person benefited such nonrecovered amount shall be charged in such manner as the probate court may determine.

[1961 c 698 s 5]

**525.526 APPORTIONMENT BEFORE DISTRIBUTION.** No fiduciary shall be required to transfer, pay over, or distribute to any person other than the fiduciary charged with the duty to collect and pay the tax any fund or property with respect to which the tax is or may be imposed until the amount of the tax appor-

tioned or which may be apportioned against such fund or property and any interest due from the persons entitled to such fund or property is paid, or, that the tax has not been determined or apportionment made, until adequate security for such payment is furnished to the person making such transfer, payment, or distribution.

[1961 c 698 s 6]

**525.527 DUTIES OF COURT.** The probate court shall make such preliminary, intermediate, or final decrees or orders as it shall deem advisable tentatively or finally apportioning the tax and any interest, directing the fiduciary to collect the apportioned amounts from the property or interests in his possession of any persons against whom such apportionment has been made and directing all other persons against whom the tax and any interest have been or may be apportioned or from whom any part of the tax and any interest may be recovered to make payment of such apportioned amount to such fiduciary; and if it shall be ascertained in such proceeding that the property in the hands of the fiduciary otherwise payable to another person liable for any part of the tax and interest is insufficient to discharge the liability of such other person the probate court may direct that the balance of the apportioned amount due shall be paid to the fiduciary by such other person. If in the course of the proceeding it shall be ascertained that more than the proportionate amount of the tax and interest due from any person has been paid by him or on his behalf the probate court may by decree or order direct appropriate reimbursement of the overpayment. If the probate court shall apportion any part of the tax against any person interested in nontestamentary property or if the probate court shall make any apportionment of the tax among the respective interests created by any nontestamentary instrument, it may, in its discretion, assess against such property or interest, as the case may be, an equitable share of the expenses in connection with the determination of the tax and in connection with the apportionment thereof. The probate court may retain jurisdiction of any proceeding until the purposes of this section have been accomplished.

[1961 c 698 s 7]

**525.528 FEDERAL ESTATE TAX; MARITAL DEDUCTION.** Whenever the decedent leaves a surviving spouse or by law the spouse is presumed to have survived and the representative of the decedent's estate, the decedent's trustee or any other fiduciary is permitted or required to exercise a discretion, even though stated as sole, absolute or uncontrolled, to select assets in kind at values other than their values at the date or dates of distribution thereof, including values to be determined in the discretion of the representative, trustee or other fiduciary and even though such discretion is stated as sole, absolute or uncontrolled, to satisfy a bequest or transfer within the meaning of the marital deduction provisions of section 2056 of the United States internal revenue code or such cognate provisions of federal law as may hereafter be applicable, such representative, trustee or other fiduciary shall be subject to the general fiduciary obligation of fairness and pursuant thereto shall select assets fairly representative of appreciation or depreciation in the value of all property available on the date or dates of distribution for selection and distribution in satisfaction of such bequest or transfer, unless other language of the will or trust instrument expressly refers to this section and states that it shall not be applicable. This section shall apply to the estates of decedents dying after May 26, 1965, to trusts created after May 26, 1965, and to trusts, whenever created, which are revocable after May 26, 1965.

[1965 c 765 s 1]

#### ADVANCEMENTS

**525.53 ADVANCEMENT.** Any property given by an intestate in his lifetime to a child or other lineal descendant when expressed in the gift or grant as an advancement or charged in writing by the intestate as such, or so acknowledged by the child or other descendant, shall be deemed an advancement to such heir and treated as part of the estate of such intestate in the distribution of the same, and shall be taken by such heir toward his share of the estate. When the amount advanced exceeds the share of such heir he shall receive nothing in the distribution, but he shall not be required to refund any part of such advancement. When the amount so received is less than his share he shall be entitled to enough more to make up his full share. When a child or other lineal descendant to whom an advancement has been made dies before the intestate, leaving issue, such advance-



ment shall be deducted in the distribution of the estate as though made directly to such issue.

[1935 c. 72 s. 127] (8992-127)

**525.531 VALUATION.** When such advancement is made in real estate, the value thereof for the purpose of distribution shall be considered a part of the real estate to be divided, and when it is in personal estate, as a part of the personal estate; and when in either case it exceeds the share of real or personal estate, respectively, that would have come to such heir, he shall not refund any part of it, but shall receive so much less out of the other part of the estate as will make his whole share equal to that of other heirs entitled to a like amount with him. When the value of the estate so advanced is expressed in the conveyance, or in the charge thereof made by the intestate, or in the acknowledgment of the heir receiving it, that shall be its value in the distribution; otherwise, it shall be estimated according to its value when given, as nearly as can be ascertained. All questions as to advancements made, or alleged to have been made, by the intestate to any heir shall be heard and determined by the court at the time of settlement, and every such advancement shall be specified in the decree distributing and assigning the estate. For the purpose of determining what proportion any one who has received an advancement is entitled to the court shall ascertain the value of the entire residue of such estate, by ordering an appraisal or in such other manner as it may deem best.

[1935 c. 72 s. 128] (8992-128)

**525.532 DISCLAIMER OF INTERESTS PASSING BY WILL, INTESTATE SUCCESSION OR UNDER CERTAIN POWERS OF APPOINTMENT.** Subdivision 1. As used in this section, unless otherwise clearly required by the context:

(a) "Beneficiary" means and includes any person entitled, but for his disclaimer, to take an interest: by intestate succession; by devise; by legacy or bequest; by succession to a disclaimed interest by will, intestate succession or through the exercise or nonexercise of a testamentary power of appointment; by virtue of a renunciation and election to take against a will; as beneficiary of a testamentary trust; pursuant to the exercise or nonexercise of a testamentary power of appointment; as donee of a power of appointment created by testamentary instrument; or otherwise under a testamentary instrument;

(b) "Interest" means and includes the whole of any property, real or personal, legal or equitable, or any fractional part, share or particular portion or specific assets thereof or any estate in any such property or power to appoint, consume, apply or expend property or any other right, power, privilege or immunity relating thereto;

(c) "Disclaimer" means a written instrument which declines, refuses, releases, renounces or disclaims an interest which would otherwise be succeeded to by a beneficiary, which instrument defines the nature and extent of the interest disclaimed thereby and which must be signed, witnessed and acknowledged by the disclaimant in the manner provided for deeds of real estate.

Subd. 2. A beneficiary may disclaim any interest in whole or in part, or with reference to specific parts, shares or assets thereof, by filing a disclaimer in court in the manner hereinafter provided. A guardian, executor, administrator or other personal representative of the estate of a minor, incompetent or deceased beneficiary, if he deems it in the best interests of those interested in the estate of such beneficiary and of those who take the beneficiary's interest by virtue of the disclaimer and not detrimental to the best interests of the beneficiary, with or without an order of the probate court, may execute and file a disclaimer on behalf of the beneficiary within the time and in the manner in which the beneficiary himself could disclaim if he were living, of legal age and competent. A beneficiary likewise may execute and file a disclaimer by agent or attorney so empowered.

Subd. 3. Such disclaimer shall be filed at any time after the creation of the interest, but in all events within six months after the death of the person by whom the interest was created or from whom it would have been received, or, if the disclaimant is not finally ascertained as a beneficiary or his interest has not become indefeasibly fixed both in quality and quantity as of the death of such person, then such disclaimer shall be filed not later than six months after

the event which would cause him so to become finally ascertained and his interest to become indefeasibly fixed both in quality and quantity.

Subd. 4. Such disclaimer shall be effective upon being filed in the probate court in which the estate of the person by whom the interest was created or from whom it would have been received is, or has been, administered or, if no probate administration has been commenced, then in the probate court of any county provided in Minnesota Statutes, Section 525.82, as the place for probate administration of the estate of such person. A copy of the disclaimer shall be delivered or mailed to the representative, trustee or other person having legal title to, or possession of, the property in which the interest disclaimed exists, and no such representative, trustee or person shall be liable for any otherwise proper distribution or other disposition made without actual notice of the disclaimer. If an interest in or relating to real estate is disclaimed, the original of the disclaimer, or a copy of the disclaimer certified as true and complete by the clerk of the probate court wherein the same has been filed, shall be filed in the office of the register of deeds or the registrar of titles, as hereinafter provided, in the county or counties where the real estate is situated and shall constitute notice to all persons only from and after the time of such filing. If title to such real estate has not been registered under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 508, such disclaimer or certified copy shall be filed with the register of deeds. If title to such real estate has been registered under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 508, such disclaimer or certified copy shall be filed with the registrar of titles.

Subd. 5. Unless the person by whom the interest was created or from whom it would have been received has otherwise provided by will or other appropriate instrument with reference to the possibility of a disclaimer by the beneficiary, the interest disclaimed shall descend, be distributed or otherwise be disposed of in the same manner as if the disclaimant had died immediately preceding the death or other event which causes him to become finally ascertained as a beneficiary and his interest to become indefeasibly fixed both in quality and quantity, and, in any case, the disclaimer shall relate for all purposes to such date, whether filed before or after such death or other event. However, one disclaiming an interest in a non-residuary gift, devise or bequest shall not be excluded, unless his disclaimer so provides, from sharing in a gift, devise or bequest of the residue even though, through lapse, such residue includes the assets disclaimed. An interest of any nature in or to the estate of an intestate may be declined, refused or disclaimed as herein provided without ever vesting in the disclaimant.

Subd. 6. The right to disclaim otherwise conferred by this section shall be barred if the beneficiary is insolvent at the time of the event giving rise to the right to disclaim. Any voluntary assignment or transfer of, or contract to assign or transfer, an interest in real or personal property, or written waiver of the right to disclaim the succession to an interest in real or personal property, by any beneficiary, or any sale or other disposition of an interest in real or personal property pursuant to judicial process, made before he has filed a disclaimer, as herein provided, bars the right otherwise hereby conferred on such beneficiary to disclaim as to such interest.

Subd. 7. The right to disclaim granted by this section shall exist irrespective of any limitation imposed on the interest of the disclaimant in the nature of an express or implied spendthrift provision or similar restriction. A disclaimer, when filed as provided in this section, or a written waiver of the right to disclaim, shall be binding upon the disclaimant or beneficiary so waiving and all parties thereafter claiming by, through or under him, except that a beneficiary so waiving may thereafter transfer, assign or release his interest if such is not prohibited by an express or implied spendthrift provision. If an interest in real estate is disclaimed and the disclaimer is duly filed in accordance with the provisions of subdivision 4 of this section, the spouse of the disclaimant, if such spouse has consented to the disclaimer in writing, shall thereupon be automatically debarred from any spouse's statutory or common law right or estate by curtesy or in dower or otherwise in such real estate to which such spouse, except for such disclaimer, would have been entitled.

Subd. 8. This section shall not abridge the right of any person, apart from this section, under any existing or future statute or rule of law, to disclaim any interest or to assign, convey, release, renounce or otherwise dispose of any interest.

Subd. 9. Any interest which exists on May 22, 1965 but which has not then become indefeasibly fixed both in quality and quantity, or the taker of which has not then become finally ascertained, may be disclaimed after May 22, 1965 in the manner provided herein.

[1965 c 552 s 1]

#### GUARDIANSHIPS

**525.54 PERSONS SUBJECT TO GUARDIANSHIP.** The court may appoint one or two persons suitable and competent to discharge the trust as guardians of the person or estate or of both of any person who is a minor, or who because of old age, or imperfection or deterioration of mentality is incompetent to manage his person or estate, or of any person who because of excessive intoxication, gambling, idleness, or debauchery, so spends or wastes his estate or injures his person as to be likely to expose himself or his family to want or suffering, provided such person is a resident of the county or being a non-resident of this state has property in the county. No guardian of the person of any minor shall be appointed while proceedings for his care and custody are pending in any juvenile court of this state. Nothing herein contained shall diminish the power of any court to appoint a guardian to serve or protect the interest of any minor or other person under disability in any proceedings therein, nor abridge the rights of the father and mother, if suitable and competent, as the natural guardians of their minor children.

[1935 c. 72 s. 129] (8992-129)

**525.541 PETITIONERS.** Any person may petition for the appointment of a guardian or guardians for any person believed to be subject to guardianship, provided that the petition of a person over the age of 14 years for the appointment of a guardian or guardians of his own person or estate, and the petition of any person nominated by the will of a deceased parent with the written consent of the other parent if living and not under disability, for the appointment of a guardian or guardians for their minor child shall have priority over the petition of any other person. When any minor under guardianship attains the age of 14 years, he may petition for the appointment of a guardian or guardians nominated by him in lieu of the guardians theretofore appointed.

[1935 c. 72 s. 130] (8992-130)

**525.542 CONTENTS OF PETITION.** The petition shall show (1) the name and address of the person for whom a guardian is sought, (2) the date and place of his birth, (3) if he be a minor, the names and addresses of his parents, or if the parents be dead or have abandoned the minor, the names and addresses of his custodians and of any person named as testamentary guardians in the will of a decedent, (4) if he be not a minor, the names and addresses of his nearest kindred, (5) if he be married, the name and address of his spouse, (6) the reasons for the guardianship, (7) the probable value and general character of his real and personal property and the probable amount of his debts, (8) the names, ages, addresses, and occupation of the proposed guardians.

[1935 c. 72 s. 131] (8992-131)

**525.543 LIS PENDENS.** After the filing of the petition, a certificate of the probate court certified to that fact may be filed for record in the office of the register of deeds of any county in which any real estate owned by the ward is situated and if a resident of this state, in the county of his residence. Such certificate shall state that such a petition is pending and the name and address of the person for whom a guardian is sought. If a guardian be appointed on such petition, all contracts except for necessities, and all transfers of real or personal property made by the ward after such filing and before the termination of the guardianship shall be void.

[1935 c 72 s 132; 1961 c 578 s 1] (8992-132)

**525.55 NOTICE OF HEARING.** If the petition be made by the person for whom a guardian is sought, or by a parent, custodian, or testamentary guardian of a minor under the age of 14 years, the court may hear the same with or without notice. In all other cases, upon the filing of the petition the court shall fix the time and place for the hearing thereof. At least 14 days prior to such time, personal service shall be made upon the ward. If he have a spouse, custodian, or if there be a testamentary guardian named in the will of a decedent, notice shall be given to such persons and to such of the nearest kindred and in such manner as the court

may direct. If he be an inmate of any hospital or asylum, notice by mail shall be given to the superintendent thereof. If he be a non-resident or if after diligent search he cannot be found in this state, notice shall be given in such manner and to such persons as the court may determine.

[1935 c. 72 s. 133] (8992-133)

**525.551 HEARING; APPOINTMENT; BOND; NOTICE.** Upon proof of the petition, the court shall appoint one or two persons suitable and competent to discharge the trust as general guardians of the person or estate or of both. Upon the filing of a bond in such amount as the court may direct and an oath according to law, or upon the filing of an acceptance of the trust pursuant to section 48.79, letters of guardianship shall issue. If there be no personal property, the court may waive the filing of a bond, but if the guardian receives or becomes entitled to any such property he shall immediately file a report thereof and a bond in such amount as the court may direct. If the ward be a patient of a state hospital for the mentally ill, or committed to the guardianship of the commissioner of public welfare as mentally retarded, epileptic, dependent and neglected or is under the temporary custody of the commissioner of public welfare, the court shall notify the commissioner of public welfare of the appointment of a guardian or successor guardian of the estate of such ward.

[1935 c 72 s 134; 1959 c 525 s 1] (8992-134)

**525.56 GUARDIAN'S DUTIES.** Subdivision 1. A guardian shall be subject to the control and direction of the court at all times and in all things.

Subd. 2. A general guardian of the person shall have charge of the person of the ward.

Subd. 3. A general guardian of the estate shall

(1) Pay the reasonable charges for the support, maintenance, and education of the ward in a manner suitable to his station in life and the value of his estate; but nothing herein contained shall release parents from obligations imposed by law for the support, maintenance, and education of their children;

(2) Pay all just and lawful debts of the ward and the reasonable charges incurred for the support, maintenance, and education of his wife and children and, upon order of the court, pay such sum as the court may fix as reasonable for the support of any person unable to earn a livelihood who is or may become legally entitled to support from the ward;

(3) Possess and manage the estate, collect all debts and claims in favor of the ward, or, with the approval of the court, compromise the same, institute suit on behalf of the ward and represent the ward in any court proceedings, and invest all funds not currently needed for the debts and charges named in clauses (1) and (2) and the management of the estate, in accordance with the provisions of sections 48.84, 501.125, subdivision 1 and section 51.29, subdivision 2. Where a bank or trust company is a guardian, with or without coguardians, it may invest in such securities without approval of the probate court, but the investments of other guardians in such securities shall be subject to the approval of the probate court except as otherwise specifically provided by law. A guardian shall also have the power to purchase certain contracts of insurance as provided in section 50.14, subdivision 14(b);

(4) Where a ward has inherited an undivided interest in real estate, the court, on a showing that it is for the best interest of the ward, may authorize an exchange or sale of the ward's interest or a purchase by the ward of any interest other heirs may have in the real estate.

[1935 c 72 s 135; 1941 c 395 s 1; 1947 c 209 s 1; 1953 c 457 s 1; 1961 c 288 s 1] (8992-135)

**525.57 TRANSFER OF VENUE.** When it is for the best interest of the ward or his estate the venue may be transferred to another county. Upon the filing of a petition by any person interested in the ward or in his estate the court shall fix the time and place for the hearing thereof, notice of which shall be given to such persons and in such manner as the court may direct. Upon proof that a transfer of venue is for the best interest of the ward or his estate, and upon the settlement and allowance of the guardian's accounts to the time of such hearing, the court shall transmit the entire file to the court of such other county in which all subsequent proceedings shall be had.

[1935 c. 72 s. 136] (8992-136)

**525.58 FILING OF ACCOUNTS.** Except where expressly waived by the court, every guardian annually shall file a verified account covering the period from the date of appointment or his last account. At the termination of the guardianship, or upon the guardian's removal or resignation, he or his surety, or in the event of his death or disability, his representative or surety shall file a verified final account with a petition for the settlement and allowance thereof. Every account shall show in detail all property received and disbursed, the property on hand, the present address of the ward and of the guardian, and unless the guardian be a corporation, the amount of the bond, the names and addresses of all sureties thereon, that each unincorporated surety is a resident of this state, is not under disability, and is worth the amount in which he justified.

[1935 c. 72 s. 137] (8992-137)

**525.581 NOTICE OF HEARING ON ACCOUNT.** The court on its own motion may, or upon the petition of the guardian or any person interested in the ward or his estate shall, fix the time and place for the hearing on any account, notice of which shall be given in such manner and to such persons as the court may direct. Wherever any funds have been received from the veterans' administration, notice by mail shall be given to the regional office having charge thereof.

[1935 c. 72 s. 138] (8992-138)

**525.582 ADJUDICATION ON ACCOUNT.** Unless otherwise ordered, the guardian shall, and other persons may, be examined on the hearing. If the account be correct, it shall be settled and allowed; if incorrect, it shall be corrected and then settled and allowed. The order of settlement and allowance shall show the amount of the personal property remaining. Upon settlement of the final account, and upon delivery of the property on hand to the person entitled thereto, the court shall discharge the guardian and his sureties. Any person for whom a guardian has been appointed and who has become of age or has been restored to capacity may show to the court that he has settled with his guardian and may petition for the guardian's discharge without further hearing. Upon such petition, the court may discharge the guardian and his sureties.

[1935 c. 72 s. 139] (8992-139)

**525.59 SUCCEEDING GUARDIAN.** If a guardian dies, resigns, or is removed, the court with or without notice may appoint a successor.

[1935 c. 72 s. 140] (8992-140)

**525.591 SPECIAL GUARDIAN.** Upon a showing of necessity or expediency, the court with or without notice may appoint a special guardian of the person or estate or both of any person designated in section 525.54, whether a petition for general guardianship has been filed or not. There shall be no appeal from any order appointing or refusing to appoint a special guardian. A special guardian of the person shall have charge of the person of the ward. A special guardian of the estate shall collect the assets and conserve the estate, unless his powers are limited by the court in the order of appointment and in the letters to the performance of specified acts. Upon a showing of necessity or expediency, the court with or without notice may expressly confer upon a special guardian power to perform any or all acts in the administration of the guardianship, not exceeding the powers conferred by law upon general guardians.

Within 14 days after appointment, a special guardian of the estate shall file an inventory and appraisal of the personal property according to the requirements of sections 525.33 and 525.331. Upon the granting of letters of general guardianship, the power of a special guardian shall cease, and he shall proceed forthwith to a final accounting. When a special guardian has been appointed to protect the ward's interest in any matter wherein the interest of the general guardian appears to conflict with that of the ward, or to protect the ward's interest upon suspension of an order of removal of a general guardian by appeal, the power of such special guardian shall not cease until terminated by the court.

[1935 c. 72 s. 141] (8992-141)

**525.60 TERMINATION.** A guardianship of a minor shall terminate upon his death or upon his attainment of legal age. The marriage of a female ward under guardianship as a minor only and not under a juvenile court guardianship shall terminate the guardianship of her person but not of her estate, provided that such guardianship shall not affect her capacity to join with her husband in instruments

involving his interest in real estate. The guardianship of a ward other than a minor shall terminate upon his death or upon his restoration to capacity. When there is no further need for any guardianship, the court may terminate the same upon such notice as it may direct.

[1935 c. 72 s. 142] (8992-142)

**525.61 RESTORATION TO CAPACITY.** Any person who has been adjudicated insane or inebriate, or any person who is under guardianship (except as a minor, or as a feeble-minded or epileptic person, or a person under guardianship in the juvenile court), or his guardian, or any other person interested in him or his estate may petition the court in which he was so adjudicated to be restored to capacity. Upon the filing of such petition, the court shall fix the time and place for the hearing thereof, notice of which shall be given to the commissioner of public welfare if he was under the control of the commissioner and has not been discharged by the commissioner, and to such other persons and in such manner as the court may direct.

Any person may oppose such restoration. Upon proof that such person is of sound mind and capable of managing his person and estate, and that he is not likely to expose himself or his family to want or suffering, the court shall adjudge him restored to capacity.

In proceedings for the restoration of an insane or inebriate person, the court may appoint two duly licensed doctors of medicine to assist in the determination of the mental capacity of the patient. The court shall allow and order paid to each doctor so appointed the sum of \$5 per day for his services and 15 cents for each mile traveled. Upon such order the county auditor shall issue a warrant on the county treasurer for the payment thereof. If the court notifies the county attorney he shall attend the hearing and if he deems it for the best interest of the public he shall oppose the restoration in the probate court and appellate courts.

If such person has been adjudged insane or inebriate by a court of a county wherein he had no settlement, the petition for restoration may be filed in the court of the county of his settlement in which shall be filed certified copies of such instruments of the file of the court of commitment as the court may direct. The court wherein restoration is granted or denied shall transmit to the court of commitment a certified copy of the order granting or denying restoration. The expenses of such certified copies and of such transmittal shall be paid by the county of such person's settlement. If the venue has been transferred, no proceedings need be had in the court from which the venue was transferred.

[1935 c 72 s 143; 1939 c 270 s 8; 1959 c 267 s 3] (8992-143)

**525.611 DISCHARGE OF COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WELFARE AS GUARDIAN.** When it appears to the commissioner of public welfare that a person committed to his guardianship as a mentally deficient or epileptic person is no longer in need of guardianship or supervision for his own or the public welfare, or when the commissioner can no longer exercise his guardianship and supervision because the mentally deficient or epileptic person no longer lives in the state or his whereabouts are unknown and cannot be ascertained, the commissioner may petition the court of commitment or the court to which the venue has been transferred for his discharge as such guardian, stating facts in support of his petition.

[1937 c 255 s 1; 1955 c 62 s 1; 1959 c 267 s 3] (8992-143a)

**525.612 PETITION, HEARING.** Upon the filing of such petition, the court shall fix the time and place for the hearing thereof, notice of which shall be given as the court may direct. Upon proof of the petition the court shall make an order discharging the commissioner of public welfare as the guardian of such person.

[1937 c 255 s 2; 1959 c 267 s 3] (8992-143b)

## REALTY; SALES, LEASES, MORTGAGES

**525.62 MORTGAGE AND LEASE.** As used in sections 525.62 to 525.702, the word "mortgage" includes an extension of an existing mortgage, subject to the provisions of section 525.691; the word "lease," unless the context otherwise indicates, means a lease for more than three years.

[1935 c. 72 s. 144] (8992-144)

**525.621 LEASE FOR THREE YEARS OR LESS.** The court, with or without notice, may direct a lease for three years or less of any real estate (including a

homestead if the written consent of the spouse has been filed) when it appears to be for the best interest of the estate and of the persons interested in such real estate.

[1935 c. 72 s. 145] (8992-145)

**525.63 REASONS FOR SALE, MORTGAGE, LEASE.** The court may direct a sale, mortgage, or lease of any real estate of a decedent when the personal property is insufficient to pay the allowances to the spouse and children, expenses of administration, funeral expenses, expenses of last illness, taxes, debts, and bequests, or when it shall determine such sale, mortgage, or lease to be for the best interests of the estate and of the persons interested in such real estate. The proceeds of any such sale, mortgage, or lease which may be available for distribution shall be distributed to the same persons and in the same shares as if it had remained real estate.

The court may direct a sale, mortgage, or lease of any real estate of a ward when the personal property is insufficient to pay his debts and other charges against his estate, or to provide for the support, maintenance, and education of the ward, his wife, and children, or when it shall determine such sale, mortgage, or lease to be for the best interest of the ward.

The homestead of a decedent when the spouse takes any interest therein or the homestead of a ward shall not be sold, mortgaged, or leased unless the written consent of the spouse has been filed. Unless the written consent of all persons who take any interest therein has been filed, the homestead of a decedent shall not be mortgaged except for the purpose of extending, renewing, or satisfying an existing mortgage and paying the taxes, assessments, liens, encumbrances, repairs, and incidental expenses or other items necessary to procure such mortgage.

[1935 c. 72 s. 146] (8992-146)

**525.64 PETITION, NOTICE, HEARING.** A representative may file a petition to sell, mortgage, or lease alleging briefly the facts constituting the reasons for the application and describing the real estate involved therein. The petition may include all the real estate of the decedent or ward or any part or parts thereof. It may apply for different authority as to separate parcels. It may apply in the alternative for authority to sell, mortgage, or lease. Upon the filing of such petition, the court shall fix the time and place for the hearing thereof. Notice of the hearing shall state briefly the nature of the application made by the petition and shall be given pursuant to section 525.83. Upon the hearing, the court shall have full power to direct the sale, mortgage, or lease of all the real estate described in the petition, or to direct the sale, mortgage, or lease of any one or more parcels thereof, provided that any such direction shall be within the terms of the application made by the petition.

[1935 c. 72 s. 147; 1937 c. 435 s. 17] (8992-147)

**525.641 ORDER FOR SALE, MORTGAGE, LEASE.** The order shall describe the real estate to be sold, mortgaged, or leased, and may designate the sequence in which the several parcels shall be sold, mortgaged, or leased. If the order be for a sale, it shall direct whether the real estate shall be sold at private sale or public auction. When the purpose of a sale, mortgage, or lease is to pay debts, bequests, or other items, the real estate shall be sold, mortgaged, or leased in the following sequence: (1) real estate devised charged with the payment of such debts, bequests, or other items, (2) real estate not specifically devised, (3) real estate specifically devised but not so charged. An order to mortgage shall fix the maximum amount of the principal and the maximum rate of interest and shall direct the purpose for which the proceeds shall be used. An order for sale, mortgage, or lease shall remain in force until terminated by the court, but no private sale shall be made after one year from the date of the order unless the real estate shall have been reappraised under order of the court within three months preceding the sale.

[1935 c. 72 s. 148; 1937 c. 435 s. 18] (8992-148)

**525.642 TERMS OF SALE.** The court may order a sale of real estate for cash, part cash and a purchase-money mortgage of not more than 50 percent of the purchase price, or on contract for deed. The initial payment under a sale on contract shall not be less than ten percent of the total purchase price, and the unpaid purchase price shall bear interest at a rate of not less than four percent per annum and shall be payable in reasonable monthly, quarterly, semiannual, or

annual payments, and the final instalment shall become due and payable not later than ten years from the date of the contract. Such contract shall provide for conveyance by quitclaim deed, which deed shall be executed and delivered upon full performance of the contract without further order of the court. In the event of termination of the interest of the purchaser and his assigns in such contract, the real estate may be resold under the original order and a reappraisal within three months preceding the sale. A sale of the vendor's interest in real estate sold by the representative on contract may be made under order of the court, with or without notice, upon an appraisal of such interest within three months preceding the sale; no such sale shall be made for less than its value as fixed by such appraisal.

[1935 c. 72 s. 149; 1937 c. 435 s. 19] (8992-149)

**525.65 PUBLIC SALE.** If a sale at public auction be ordered, three weeks' published notice of the time and place of sale shall be given. Proof of publication shall be filed before the confirmation of the sale. Such publication and sale may be made in the county where the real estate is situated or in the county of the probate proceedings. If the parcels to be sold are contiguous and lie in more than one county, notice may be given and the sale may be made in either of such counties or in the county of the probate proceedings. The representative may adjourn the sale from time to time, if for the best interests of the estate and the persons concerned, but not exceeding three months in all. Every adjournment shall be announced publicly at the time and place fixed for the sale and, if for more than one day, further notice thereof shall be given as the court may direct.

[1935 c. 72 s. 150] (8992-150)

**525.651 PRIVATE SALE.** If a private sale be ordered, the real estate shall be reappraised by two or more disinterested persons under order of the court, which reappraisal shall be filed before the confirmation of the sale. No real estate shall be sold at private sale for less than its value as fixed by such appraisal.

[1935 c. 72 s. 151] (8992-151)

**525.652 ADDITIONAL BOND.** If the bond of the representative be insufficient, before confirmation of a sale or lease, or before execution of a mortgage, he shall file an additional bond in such amount as the court may require.

[1935 c. 72 s. 152] (8992-152)

**525.66 SALE OF CONTRACT INTEREST.** When a person entitled under contract of purchase to any interest in real estate dies, or when a ward is entitled under contract of purchase to any interest in real estate, such interest may be sold for the same reasons and in the same manner as other real estate of a decedent or ward. Before confirmation, the court may require the filing of a bond conditioned to save the estate harmless. Upon confirmation, the representative shall assign the contract and convey by quitclaim deed. The proceeds of such sale in the estate of a decedent shall be disposed of in the same manner as the proceeds of sales of real estate of which the decedent was seised.

[1935 c. 72 s. 153] (8992-153)

**525.661 SALE SUBJECT TO CHARGE.** When the estate of a decedent or ward is liable for any charge, mortgage, lien, or other encumbrance upon the real estate therein, the court may refuse to confirm the sale or lease until after the filing of a bond in such amount as the court may direct conditioned to save the estate harmless.

[1935 c. 72 s. 154] (8992-154)

**525.662 CONFIRMATION.** Upon making a sale or lease, the representative shall file his report thereof. Upon proof of compliance with the terms of the order, the court may confirm the sale or lease and order the representative to execute and deliver the proper instrument.

[1935 c. 72 s. 155] (8992-155)

**525.67 AGREEMENT AND SALE FOR PUBLIC PURPOSE.** When any real estate of a decedent or ward is desired by any person, firm, association, corporation, or governmental agency having the power of eminent domain, the representative may agree, in writing, upon the compensation to be made for the taking, injuring, damaging, or destroying thereof, subject to the approval of the court. When such agreement has been made, the representative shall file a petition, of which the agreement shall be a part, setting forth the facts relative to the transaction. The



court, with or without notice, shall hear, determine, and act upon the petition. If the court approves the agreement, the representative, upon payment of the agreed compensation, shall convey the real estate sought to be acquired and execute any release which may be authorized.

[1935 c. 72 s. 156] (8992-156)

**525.68 PLATTING.** When it is for the best interests of the estate of a decedent or ward, real estate may be platted by the representative under such conditions and upon such notice as the court may order.

[1935 c. 72 s. 157] (8992-157)

**525.69 CONVEYANCE OF VENDOR'S TITLE.** When any person legally bound to make a conveyance or lease dies before making the same, or when any ward is legally bound to make a conveyance or lease, the court, with or without notice, may direct the representative to make the conveyance or lease to the person entitled thereto. The petition may be made by any person claiming to be entitled to such conveyance or lease, or by the representative, or by any person interested in the estate or claiming an interest in such real estate or contract, and shall show the description of the land and the facts upon which such claim for conveyance or lease is based. Upon proof of the petition, the court may order the representative to execute and deliver an instrument of conveyance or lease upon performance of the contract.

[1935 c. 72 s. 158; 1937 c. 435 s. 20] (8992-158)

**525.691 MORTGAGE EXTENSION.** A representative without order of the court may make an extension of an existing mortgage for a period of five years or less, if the extension agreement contains the same prepayment privileges and the rate of interest does not exceed the lowest rate in the mortgage extended.

[1935 c. 72 s. 159] (8992-159)

**525.692 LIABILITY ON MORTGAGE NOTE.** No representative shall be liable personally on any mortgage note or by reason of the covenants in any instrument or conveyance executed by him in his representative capacity.

[1935 c. 72 s. 160] (8992-160)

**525.693 TITLE FREE FROM TAX LIEN.** The lien of the state for inheritance taxes payable by a representative shall not extend to any right acquired by a purchaser, mortgagee, or lessee through any conveyance made by such representative under a power contained in a will or under order of the court.

[1935 c. 72 s. 161] (8992-161)

**525.70 VALIDITY OF PROCEEDINGS.** No sale, mortgage, lease, or conveyance by a representative shall be subject to collateral attack on account of any irregularity in the proceedings if the court which ordered the same had jurisdiction of the estate.

[1935 c. 72 s. 162] (8992-162)

**525.701 CERTAIN DEEDS VALIDATED.** All deeds for the conveyance of real estate made and executed by an administrator or executor of the estate of a deceased person, pursuant to the order of any probate court of this state authorizing and directing the making and execution of such instrument, where the execution thereof was otherwise valid, and in which instrument the description of the property conveyed does not correspond with the description set forth in the order of the probate court authorizing and directing the making and execution of such instrument, the same are hereby validated and legalized, and such conveyances are hereby made valid as to the property described in the order of the probate court authorizing and directing the making and execution of such instrument.

[Ex1936 c 58 s 1] (8992-162a)

**525.702 LIMITATION OF ACTION.** No proceeding to have declared invalid the sale, mortgage, lease, or conveyance by a representative shall be maintained by any person claiming under or through the decedent or ward unless such proceeding is begun within five years immediately succeeding the date of such sale, mortgage, lease, or conveyance, provided, that in case of real estate sold by a guardian, no action for its recovery shall be maintained by or under the ward unless it is begun within five years next after the termination of the guardianship; and that, in cases of fraud, minors and others under legal disability to sue when the right of action first accrues may begin such action at any time within five years after the disability is removed.

[1935 c. 72 s. 163] (8992-163)

## APPEALS

**525.71 APPEALABLE ORDERS.** An appeal to the district court may be taken from any of the following orders, judgments, and decrees of the probate court:

- (1) An order admitting, or refusing to admit, a will to probate;
- (2) An order appointing, or refusing to appoint, or removing, or refusing to remove, a representative other than a special administrator or special guardian;
- (3) An order authorizing, or refusing to authorize, the sale, mortgage, or lease of real estate, or confirming, or refusing to confirm, the sale or lease of real estate;
- (4) An order directing, or refusing to direct, a conveyance or lease of real estate under contract;
- (5) An order permitting, or refusing to permit, the filing of a claim, or allowing or disallowing a claim or counterclaim, in whole or in part, when the amount in controversy exceeds \$100;
- (6) An order setting apart, or refusing to set apart, property, or making, or refusing to make, an allowance for the spouse or children;
- (7) An order determining, or refusing to determine, venue; an order transferring, or refusing to transfer, venue;
- (8) An order directing, or refusing to direct, the payment of a bequest or distributive share when the amount in controversy exceeds \$100;
- (9) An order allowing, or refusing to allow, an account of a representative or any part thereof when the amount in controversy exceeds \$100;
- (10) An order adjudging a person in contempt;
- (11) An order vacating a previous appealable order, judgment, or decree; an order refusing to vacate a previous appealable order, judgment, or decree alleged to have been procured by fraud or misrepresentation, or through surprise or excusable inadvertence or neglect;
- (12) A judgment or decree of partial or final distribution;
- (13) An interlocutory decree entered pursuant to section 525.481;
- (14) An order granting or denying restoration to capacity;
- (15) An order made pursuant to section 525.49 directing, or refusing to direct, the payment of representative's fees or attorneys' fees, and in such case the representative and the attorney shall each be deemed an aggrieved party and entitled to take such appeal;
- (16) An order, judgment, or decree relating to or affecting inheritance taxes or refusing to amend, modify, or vacate such an order, judgment, or decree; but nothing herein contained shall abridge the right of direct review by the supreme court;
- (17) An order extending the time for the settlement of the estate beyond five years from the date of the appointment of the representative.

[1935 c 72 s 164; 1939 c 270 s 9; 1941 c 411 s 1; 1963 c 740 s 24] (8992-164)

**525.711 VENUE.** Such appeal shall be to the district court of the county of the probate court which made the order, judgment, or decree appealed from, except that an appeal taken from any order, judgment, or decree (other than one determining or refusing to determine venue or transferring or refusing to transfer venue) made before the transfer of venue shall be taken to the district court of the county to which the transfer was made.

[1935 c. 72 s. 165] (8992-165)

**525.712 REQUISITES.** Such appeal may be taken by any person aggrieved within 30 days after service of notice of the filing of the order, judgment, or decree appealed from, or if no such notice be served, within six months after the filing of such order, judgment, or decree. To render the appeal effective (1), the appellant shall serve a notice of appeal, specifying the order, judgment, or decree appealed from upon the adverse party who appeared or upon his attorney, personally, and upon each adverse party of record who did not appear by mail at his last address as the same appears in the court's file of the case and upon the probate judge or clerk, personally, for the adverse party who did not appear and whose address is unknown and shall file in the probate court such notice, together with proof of service thereof; (2) the appellant shall pay to the probate court an appeal fee of \$3 to apply on the fee for the return; and (3) the appellant, other than the state, the veterans administration, or a representative appealing on behalf of the estate, shall file in the probate court a bond in such amount as that court may direct, conditioned to

prosecute the appeal with due diligence to a final determination, to pay all costs and disbursements, and to abide the order of the court therein.

When a party in good faith gives due notice of appeal and omits through mistake to do any other act necessary to perfect the appeal, the district court may permit an amendment on such terms as may be just.

[1935 c 72 s 166; 1937 c 435 s 21; 1953 c 476 s 1] (8992-166)

**525.713 RETURN.** When an appeal has been effected, the probate court upon payment of the remainder of its fee, if any, forthwith shall return to the district court a certified transcript of the order, judgment, or decree appealed from, the notice of appeal with proof of service thereof, and the bond if required. If the required fee for the return be not paid within 20 days after the appeal has been effected, the district court may dismiss the appeal. If the appeal be taken under section 525.71, clause (10), such transcript shall contain copies of such other documents, papers, and exhibits as the probate court may consider necessary. The district court may require a further or amended return.

[1935 c. 72 s. 167; 1937 c. 435 s. 22] (8992-167)

**525.714 SUSPENSION BY APPEAL.** Such appeal shall suspend the operation of the order, judgment, or decree appealed from until the appeal is determined or the district court shall otherwise order. The district court may require the appellant to give additional bond for the payment of damages which may be awarded against him in consequence of such suspension, in case he fails to obtain a reversal of the order, judgment, or decree so appealed from. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the probate court from appointing special representatives nor prevent special representatives from continuing to act as such.

[1935 c. 72 s. 168] (8992-168)

**525.72 TRIAL.** Within 20 days after perfection of the appeal, the appellant shall file with the clerk of the district court, and serve upon the adverse party or his attorney a clear and concise statement of the proposition, both of law and of fact, upon which he will rely for reversal of the order, judgment, or decree appealed from; within 20 days after such service the adverse party may serve and file his answer thereto and the appellant, within 20 days thereafter, may serve and file a reply. If there be no reply, allegations of new matter in the answer shall be deemed denied. Demurrers shall not be permitted. The district court may allow or require any pleading to be amended, grant judgment on the pleadings, or, if the appellant fail to comply with the provisions hereof, dismiss the appeal.

After issues are so formed, the case may be brought on for trial by either party by the filing and service upon the attorney for the adverse party, or if he have none, then upon the clerk for him, of a notice of trial or note of issue, in accordance with the practice in the district court. Thereupon the cause shall be placed upon the calendar, tried, and determined in the same manner as if originally commenced in that court. All appeals other than those from the allowance or disallowance of a claim shall be tried by the court without a jury, unless the court orders the whole issue, or some specific question of fact involved therein, to be tried by a jury or referred.

[1935 c. 72 s. 169] (8992-169)

**525.73 AFFIRMANCE; REVERSAL.** When the appellant fails to prosecute his appeal, or the order, judgment, or decree appealed from or reviewed on certiorari is sustained, judgment shall be entered in the district court affirming the decision of the probate court. Upon the filing in the probate court of a certified transcript of such judgment, the probate court shall proceed as if no appeal had been taken. If the order, judgment, or decree reviewed is reversed or modified, the district court shall remand the case to the probate court with directions to proceed in conformity with its decision. Upon the filing in the probate court of a certified transcript of such judgment, it shall proceed as directed by the district court.

[1935 c. 72 s. 170] (8992-170)

**525.731 JUDGMENT; EXECUTION.** The party prevailing on the appeal shall be entitled to costs and disbursements to be taxed as in a civil action. If judgment be rendered against the estate, they shall be an adjudicated claim against it. If judgment be rendered against an appellant other than the state, the veterans' administration, or representative appealing on behalf of the estate, judgment shall be entered against the appellant and the sureties on his appeal bond and execution may issue thereon.

[1935 c. 72 s. 171] (8992-171)

**525.74 DIRECT APPEAL TO SUPREME COURT.** A party aggrieved may appeal direct to the supreme court from an order determining or refusing to determine inheritance taxes upon a hearing on a prayer for reassessment and redetermination. Within 30 days after service of notice of the filing of such order, the appellant shall serve a notice of appeal upon all parties adversely interested or upon their attorneys and upon the probate judge. An appellant, other than the state, the veterans' administration, or a representative appealing on behalf of the estate, shall file in the probate court a bond in such amount as that court may direct, conditioned to prosecute the appeal with due diligence to a final determination, pay all costs and disbursements and abide the order of the court therein. The notice of appeal with proof of service and the bond, if required, shall be filed in the probate court within ten days after the service of such notice and the appellant shall pay to such court the sum of \$15, of which \$10 shall be transmitted to the clerk of the supreme court, as provided by law for appeals in civil actions.

Such appeal shall stay all proceedings on the order appealed from. When a party in good faith gives due notice of appeal from such order and omits through mistake to do any other act necessary to perfect the appeal, or to stay proceedings, the court may permit an amendment on such terms as may be just. Upon perfection of the appeal, the probate court shall transmit to the clerk of the supreme court the \$10 aforementioned together with a certified copy of the notice of appeal and bond, if required. The filing thereof shall vest in the supreme court jurisdiction of the cause, and records shall be transmitted to the supreme court, and records and briefs shall be printed, served, and filed, and such appeal shall be heard and disposed of as in the case of appeals in civil actions from the district court. If a settled case be necessary, the probate court may settle a case upon the application of any party. The notice of the hearing upon such application and the case proposed to be settled shall be served on all other parties interested in the appeal at least eight days prior to the hearing.

[1935 c. 72 s. 172] (8992-172)

### COMMITMENTS

**525.749 DEFINITIONS.** Subdivision 1. For the purposes of Minnesota Statutes, Sections 525.75 to 525.79, unless a different meaning is indicated by the context, the words, terms, and phrases defined in this section shall have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. "Patient" means any person for whose commitment, as mentally ill, senile, inebriate, mentally deficient, or epileptic, proceedings have been instituted or completed.

Subd. 3. "Mentally ill person" means any person of unsound mind and in need of treatment, control or care.

Subd. 4. "Senile person" means any person who is mentally ill due to advanced years.

Subd. 5. "Inebriate person" means any person incapable of managing himself or his affairs by reason of the habitual and excessive use of intoxicating liquor, drugs, or other narcotics.

Subd. 6. "Mentally deficient person" means any person, other than a mentally ill person, so mentally defective as to require supervision, control, or care for his own or the public welfare.

Subd. 7. "Epileptic person" means any person suffering from epilepsy and in need of treatment, supervision, control, or care.

Subd. 8. "State hospital" means any hospital under the administration and management of the commissioner of public welfare for the care of mentally ill, senile, or inebriate persons.

Subd. 9. "Superintendent" means the superintendent of a state hospital.

Subd. 10. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of public welfare.

[1945 c 490 s 1; 1947 c 622 s 1; 1959 c 267 s 1, 2]

**525.75 VOLUNTARY HOSPITALIZATION.** Subdivision 1. Any person desiring to receive treatment at a state hospital or institution may be admitted to such hospital or institution upon his application, in such manner and upon such conditions as the commissioner of public welfare may determine. The superintendent of such hospital or institution shall detain and treat such person as though he had been committed. If any such person in writing demands his re-

lease, the superintendent of such hospital or institution may detain such person for three days, exclusive of Sundays and legal holidays, after the date of such demand for release. If such superintendent deems such release not to be for the best interest of such person, his family, or the public, he shall, within said three days, exclusive of Sundays and legal holidays, file a petition for the commitment of such person to such hospital or institution in the probate court of the county wherein such hospital or institution is located. Upon the motion of such person the venue of the petition shall be changed to the probate court of the county of the person's residence, if he be a resident of the state of Minnesota, and thereupon the period of detention may be extended by the court until final determination of the matter. Such person after discharge shall have the right to receive the services of the county welfare department, provided in accordance with the requirements of section 525.761, subdivision 2, and the rules and regulations of the commissioner of public welfare, the same as though he had been a committed patient.

Subd. 2. Any person receiving treatment as a voluntary mental patient at a veterans administration hospital or other federal institution within the state may be detained and treated as though he had been committed to such hospital or institution. If any such person in writing demands his release, the administrator of the hospital or institution may detain such person for three days, exclusive of Sundays and legal holidays, after the date of such demand for release. If the administrator deems such release not to be for the best interest of such person, his family, or the public, he shall, within the three days, exclusive of Sundays and legal holidays, file a petition for the commitment of such person, in the manner provided by law, in the probate court of the county wherein such hospital or institution is located. The person may petition for change of venue as provided in subdivision 1. After discharge the person is entitled to the services of the county welfare department as provided in subdivision 1.

[1935 c 72 s 173; 1943 c 612 s 6; 1947 c 622 s 2; 1959 c 267 s 3; 1963 c 258 s 1; 1965 c 379 s 1] (8992-173)

**525.751 INSTITUTION OF PROCEEDINGS. Subdivision 1. Petition; filed by whom.** Any relative or reputable resident may file in the court of the county of the patient's settlement or presence a petition for commitment of a patient setting forth the name and address of the patient, the name and address of his nearest relatives, and the reasons for the petition.

Subd. 2. **Custody or restraint of patient.** The court may, if it determines that the best interest of the patient, his family, or the public is thereby served, direct the sheriff, or any other person, to take the patient into custody and confine him, for observation and examination, in any licensed hospital or any other place or institution consenting to receive him. The order of the court may be executed on any day and at any time thereof, by the use of all necessary means, including the breaking open of any door, window, or other part of the building, vehicle, boat or other place in which the patient is located, and the imposition of necessary restraint upon the person of such patient. Upon written certification by a licensed physician that he has examined a person and is of the opinion that the person is mentally ill and likely to cause injury to himself or others if not immediately restrained, setting forth the reasons for such opinion, and that an order of the court cannot be obtained in time to prevent such anticipated injury, the person may be admitted to a state hospital for the mentally ill with the consent of the superintendent thereof or his duly authorized agent and held for observation until a court order is obtained, but in no case shall he be held upon such certification for more than 72 hours exclusive of Sundays and legal holidays.

Subd. 3. **Consent of commissioner.** If the patient has no settlement in this state, all proceedings under such petition may be stayed until the commissioner consents thereto.

Subd. 4. **County attorney to represent the petitioner; counsel for patient.** In all such proceedings the county attorney shall appear and represent the petitioner. If the patient so requests, or is held for observation under order of the court, the court shall appoint counsel for him, if he is financially unable to obtain counsel. In all other cases the court may appoint counsel for the patient if it determines the interests of the patient requires counsel.

[1935 c 72 s 174; 1939 c 270 s 10; 1943 c 612 s 7; 1945 c 490 s 2; 1947 c 622 s 3; 1957 c 70 s 1; 1959 c 267 s 3; 1963 c 258 s 2] (8992-174)

**525.752 EXAMINATION.** Subdivision 1. **Examiners; investigation of financial status.** The patient shall be examined at such time and place and upon notice to the patient and to such other persons and served in such manner as the court determines. The court shall appoint two licensed doctors of medicine, and in addition thereto may appoint one person skilled in the ascertainment of mental deficiency, to assist in the examination. The court, in all counties except those containing cities of the first class, shall require the county welfare board to make an investigation into the financial circumstances, residence, and social history of such persons and except in emergency situations, where a delay in commitment would be prejudicial to the interests of the patient or the public, shall require in advance of commitment a report in writing of such investigations for the use and guidance of the examiners and the institution to which such persons may be committed. In counties containing cities of the first class the court may require such investigations.

Subd. 2. **Hearing, notice.** Upon the filing of a petition for the commitment of a person who is alleged to be mentally deficient or epileptic the court shall fix the time and place for the hearing thereof. Ten days notice thereof shall be given by mail to the commissioner of public welfare unless expressly waived by the commissioner. Notice shall also be given to such other persons in such manner and at such time as the court directs.

Subd. 3. **Report of examiners; filing, notice.** The examiners and the court shall report their findings. One copy thereof shall be filed in the court and another copy thereof shall be transmitted to the superintendent or, in the case of a mentally deficient or epileptic patient, to the commissioner. The court shall determine the nature and extent of the patient's property and the nature and extent of the property of the persons upon who liability for such patient's care and support is imposed by law. One copy of such findings shall be filed in the court and another copy thereof shall be transmitted to the commissioner. The commissioner shall prescribe the forms for the findings of the examiners and the court.

[1935 c 72 s 175; 1943 c 612 s 8; 1947 c 622 s 4; 1949 c 81 s 1; 1953 c 343 s 1; 1955 c 145 s 1; 1959 c 267 s 3; 1959 c 469 s 1] (8992-175)

**525.753 COMMITMENTS.** Subdivision 1. **Details.** If the patient is found to be mentally ill, senile or inebriate, the court shall make a finding that commitment to an institution for the care of mentally ill, senile, or inebriate person is necessary for the welfare and protection of the patient or society. Within 60 days of such a finding, the chief medical officer of the institution shall be required to file a certificate with the committing court and a copy with the commissioner of public welfare setting forth the condition of the patient, his diagnosis and his findings as to whether or not the patient is in need of further institutional care and treatment. If such certificate describes the patient as being in need of further institutional care and treatment, the patient shall remain under commitment and subject to all the laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to such institutions. If the certificate describes the patient as not in need of further institutional care and treatment, the patient shall be discharged from the hospital and such discharge shall operate to restore the patient to capacity. During the 60-day period the patient may be placed out on a provisional discharge as provided in subdivision 4. But unless such discharge is made absolute before the end of the 60-day period patient shall remain under commitment and subject to all the laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to patients committed to the state mental hospitals. The court shall issue to the sheriff, or any other person, a warrant, in duplicate, committing the patient to the custody of the superintendent of the proper state hospital, or to the superintendent or keeper of any private licensed institution for the care of mentally ill, senile, or inebriate persons. Patients committed to private institutions are required to pay the necessary hospital charge in such private institution. If the patient is entitled to care by the veterans administration or other agency of the United States in this state, the warrant shall be in triplicate, committing the patient to the joint custody of the superintendents of the proper state institutions and veterans administration or other federal agency. If the veterans administration or other federal institution is unable or unwilling to receive such patient at the time of commitment, he subsequently may be transferred to it upon its request. Such transfer shall discharge the commitment of such patient to the state institution and constitute a sole commitment to the veterans administration or other federal institution.

Upon commitment, such person when admitted to the veterans administration

or other federal institution within or without this state shall be subject to the rules and regulations of the veterans administration or other federal agency.

The chief officer of any facility of the veterans administration or institution operated by any other agency of the United States to which the person is so committed shall with respect to such person be vested with the same powers as superintendents of state hospitals for mental diseases within this state with respect to retention of custody, transfer, parole, or discharge.

The judgment or order of commitment by a court of competent jurisdiction of another state or the District of Columbia, committing a person to the veterans administration, or other agency of the United States government for care or treatment shall have the same force and effect as to the committed person while in this state as in the jurisdiction in which is situated the court entering the judgment or making the order. Consent is hereby given to the application of the law of the committing state or district in respect to the authority of the chief officer of any facility of the veterans administration, or of any institution operated in this state by any other agency of the United States to retain custody, or transfer, parole, or discharge the committed person.

Upon receipt of a certificate of the veterans administration or such other agency of the United States that facilities are available for the care or treatment of any person heretofore committed to any hospital for the insane or other institution for the care or treatment of persons similarly afflicted and that such person is eligible for care or treatment, the superintendent of the institution may cause the transfer of such person to the veterans administration or other agency of the United States for care or treatment. Upon effecting such transfer, the committing court or proper officer thereof shall be notified thereof by the transferring agency. No person shall be transferred to the veterans administration or other agency of the United States if he be confined pursuant to conviction of any felony or misdemeanor if he has been acquitted of the charge solely on the ground of insanity, unless prior to transfer the court or other authority originally committing such person shall enter an order for such transfer after appropriate motion and hearing.

Any person transferred as provided in this section shall be deemed to be committed to the veterans administration or other agency of the United States pursuant to the original commitment.

**Subd. 2. Guardian, commitment.** If the patient is found to be mentally deficient or epileptic, the court shall appoint the commissioner guardian of his person and commit him to the care and custody of such commissioner.

**Subd. 3. Transfer.** The commissioner may transfer any person committed to any state institution as a patient mentally ill, senile, inebriate, mentally deficient, or epileptic to any other state institution capable of giving such patient proper care and treatment.

**Subd. 4. Provisional discharge; notice.** The superintendent of any state hospital to which any patient who is mentally ill, senile, or inebriate is committed or transferred may provisionally discharge such patient; and, unless such patient is re-admitted to a state hospital within 12 months after the date of such provisional discharge, or unless proceedings were commenced for the appointment of a guardian for such patient, or unless the period of the provisional discharge is extended by the superintendent, the provisional discharge becomes absolute and operates to restore such patient to capacity. If, while on provisional discharge or extended provisional discharge, a patient is discharged as provided in section 253.16, the discharge shall be absolute and shall operate to restore such patient to capacity.

Notice of the expiration of the 12-month period or of the extended period shall be given by the superintendent to the committing court and to the commissioner of public welfare.

**Subd. 5. Defendant in criminal proceedings.** When, pursuant to an order of a state or federal district court, a defendant in a criminal proceeding is examined in the probate court, the probate court shall transmit its findings and return the defendant to such district court, unless otherwise ordered. A duplicate of the findings shall be filed in the probate court, but there shall be no petition, property report, or commitment unless otherwise ordered.

**Subd. 6. Discharge from private licensed institution.** The superintendent or keeper of any private licensed institution for the care of mentally ill, senile or inebriate persons, to which any patient who is mentally ill, senile, or inebriate is com-

mitted, may upon the recommendation in writing of the licensed doctor of medicine attending or treating such patient, discharge such patient.

**Subd. 7. Return of patients on provisional discharge.** The superintendent of a state hospital upon revoking a provisional discharge may request the person to return voluntarily and when necessary request public health or welfare personnel to convey the patient to the hospital, or he may inform the probate court of such revocation and the court may direct the sheriff of the county where the patient is located to return such patient to the hospital for further care and treatment.

The expense of returning the patient to the hospital, unless paid by the patient or his relatives, shall be paid by the commissioner of public welfare.

[1935 c 72 s 176; 1937 c 435 s 23; 1943 c 612 s 9; 1945 c 567 s 1; 1947 c 622 s 5; 1953 c 723 s 1; 1955 c 384 s 1; 1955 c 529 s 1; 1959 c 582 s 1; 1959 c 655 s 1] (8992-176)

**525.754 FEES, MILEAGE.** Subdivision 1. **Witnesses, examiners; conveyance of patient; counsel.** In each proceeding the court shall allow and order paid to each witness subpoenaed the fees and mileage prescribed by law, to each examiner such reasonable sum as the court may determine not less than \$10 and not exceeding \$25 per day for his services and 15 cents for each mile traveled, to the person to whom the warrant is issued the sum of \$5 per day and disbursements for the travel, board, and lodging of the patient, of himself, and of authorized assistants, and to persons conveying the patient to the place of detention the sum of not to exceed \$10 per day and disbursements for the travel, board, and lodging of the patient, of himself and of authorized assistants, and to the patient's counsel, when appointed by the court, such reasonable sum for each day or portion thereof actually employed in court or actually consumed in preparing for the hearing as may be allowed by the court not exceeding \$25 per day. Upon such order the county auditor shall issue a warrant on the county treasurer for the payment thereof.

**Subd. 2. Statement of expenses transmitted to county auditor; auditor to transmit statement to county of patient's settlement.** When the settlement of the patient is found to be in another county, the court shall transmit to the county auditor a statement of the expenses of the taking into custody, confinement, examination, commitment, and conveyance to the place of detention. The auditor shall transmit the statement to the auditor of the county of the patient's settlement and this claim shall be paid as other claims against that county. If the auditor to whom this claim is transmitted denies the claim, he shall transmit it, together with his objections thereto, to the director who shall determine the question of settlement and certify his findings to each auditor. If the claim is not paid within 30 days after such certification, an action may be maintained thereon in the district court of the claimant county.

[1935 c 72 s 177; 1943 c 612 s 10; 1947 c 622 s 6; 1953 c 546 s 1; 1959 c 630 s 2] (8992-177)

**525.76 RELEASE BEFORE COMMITMENT.** Subdivision 1. **Release on conditions; exception.** Before the delivery of the warrant of commitment, the court may release a patient to any person who files with the court a bond to the state in such amount as the court directs, conditioned upon the care and safekeeping of the patient; but no person against whom a criminal proceeding is pending or who is dangerous to the public shall be so released.

**Subd. 2. Court may revoke release.** The court, on its own motion or upon petition of any person, and upon such notice and hearing as it directs, may revoke any such release and commit the patient. Pending such proceedings the court may issue a warrant for the taking into custody and confinement of the patient.

**Subd. 3. Revocation of order for release upon petition; discharge of bond.** Upon petition of the person to whom a patient is released and upon the surrender of the patient to the court or to such custody or confinement as the court directs, the court shall revoke the order for release and commit the patient. The person to whom the patient was released and the sureties on his bond shall thereupon be discharged from any subsequent liability thereon.

**Subd. 4. County attorney may bring action.** In any case where the court deems that the conditions of the bond have not been complied with, whether the release of the patient has been revoked or not, the court may request the county attorney to bring action against the person to whom the patient was released and the sureties on his bond. The county attorney shall bring such action, if warranted by the available evidence.

[1935 c 72 s 178; 1945 c 425 s 1; 1947 c 622 s 7] (8992-178)



**525.761 RELEASE AFTER COMMITMENT.** Subdivision 1. **Release on conditions; exception.** Any patient committed to the commissioner, or to any institution under his control, may be released to any person by the authority having custody of the patient, or, if the patient is confined in an institution, by the authority having control thereof, upon recommendation of the superintendent, and upon such conditions as such authority may prescribe. The releasing authority may require the person to whom the patient is released to furnish and file with it a bond to the state in such amount as it fixes, conditioned upon the care and safekeeping of the patient, the payment of all expenses, damages, and other items arising from any act of the patient, and compliance with all conditions imposed by such authority, but no patient found by the committing court to be dangerous to the public shall be so released, except upon an order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

Subd. 2. **Supervision of discharged patients.** Each patient so released, until unconditionally discharged from custody, is subject to supervision and return to custody. The superintendent of any state hospital for the mentally ill, upon the provisional or outright discharge of any patient from such hospital, shall notify the welfare board of the county of such patient's residence in all cases, and at least one week prior to the date the patient is to be released from the hospital if practicable. The commissioner of public welfare shall provide by rule and regulation the procedure and methods whereby such discharged patient shall receive all benefits in the way of old age assistance, direct relief or other similar benefits provided by the law of the state to which his residence and circumstances entitle him, and in addition thereto provide that it shall be the duty of such welfare boards to supervise and assist such discharged patient to find employment and suitable shelter and to aid in his readjustment to the community. Such rules and regulations shall be uniformly applied in all counties and all counties are authorized and required to provide temporary relief whenever necessary to meet the intent of this subdivision.

Subd. 3. **Revocation of release.** Upon request of the person to whom any such patient is released and upon the surrender of the patient to the custody from which he was released, the releasing authority shall revoke the release and the patient is subject to further custody and control as though he had never been released. The person to whom the patient was released and the sureties on his bond shall thereupon be discharged from any subsequent liability thereon.

Subd. 4. **Attorney general may bring action.** In any case where the releasing authority deems that the conditions of the bond have not been complied with, whether or not the patient has been returned to custody, it may request the attorney general to bring an action against the person to whom the patient was released and the sureties on his bond. The attorney general shall bring such action, if warranted by the available evidence.

[1935 c 72 s 179; 1943 c 612 s 11; 1945 c 425 s 2; 1947 c 622 s 8; 1953 c 604 s 1; 1955 c 78 s 1; 1959 c 267 s 3] (8992-179)

**525.762 DETENTION.** Subdivision 1. Upon delivery of a patient to the state hospital to which committed, the superintendent thereof shall retain the duplicate warrant and endorse his receipt upon the original warrant which shall be filed in the court of commitment. After such delivery the patient is under the control of the commissioner until discharged by him or by a court of competent jurisdiction; but no patient found by the committing court to be dangerous to the public or to have a psychopathic personality shall be released from custody, except upon an order of a court of competent jurisdiction. When a patient is provisionally discharged, discharged, transferred to another institution, dies, escapes, or is returned, the institution having charge of the patient shall file notice thereof in the court of commitment.

Subd. 2. **Upon commitment of a mentally deficient or epileptic patient, the commissioner may place him in an appropriate home, hospital, or institution or exercise general supervision over him anywhere in the state outside of any institution through any child welfare board or other appropriate agency thereto authorized by the commissioner.**

[1935 c 72 s 180; 1937 c 31 s 1; 1943 c 612 s 12; 1947 c 622 s 9; 1959 c 267 s 3] (8992-180)

**525.763 COURT COMMISSIONER MAY ACT.** The court commissioner may

act upon a petition for the commitment of a patient when the probate judge is unable to do so.

[1935 c 72 s 181; 1947 c 622 s 10] (8992-181)

**525.77 MALICIOUS PETITION.** Whoever for a corrupt consideration or advantage, or through malice, makes, joins in, or advises the making of any false petition or report, or knowingly or wilfully makes any false representation for the purpose of causing such petition or report to be made, is guilty of a felony and may be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than one year or by a fine of not more than \$500.

[1935 c 72 s 182; 1947 c 622 s 11] (8992-182)

**525.78 RESTORATION TO CAPACITY.** Subdivision 1. **Petition; hearing.** Any reputable person or the commissioner may petition the court of commitment, or the court to which the venue has been transferred, for the restoration to capacity of a patient. Upon the filing of such petition, if the petition is made by the commissioner, the court shall fix the time and place for the hearing thereof, notice of which shall be given as the court directs. Upon proof of the petition, the court shall restore the patient to capacity.

**Subd. 2. Hearing; notice of restoration.** Upon the filing of a petition by any person other than the commissioner the court shall fix the time and place for the hearing thereof, ten days notice of which shall be given to the commissioner and to the county attorney and to such other persons and in such manner as the court directs. Any person may oppose such restoration. Upon proof that the patient is not mentally ill, senile, inebriate, mentally deficient, or epileptic the court shall order him restored to capacity at the expiration of 30 days from the date of such order. The copy of said order shall be mailed to the superintendent of the state hospital or institution where said patient was last confined.

**Subd. 3. Licensed doctors of medicine; compensation.** The court may appoint two licensed doctors of medicine or two persons skilled in the ascertainment of mental deficiency to assist in the determination of the mental capacity of the patient. The court shall allow and order paid to each person so appointed the sum of \$10 per day for his services and 15 cents for each mile traveled. Upon such order the county auditor shall issue a warrant on the county treasurer for the payment thereof.

**Subd. 4. County attorney may attend.** The county attorney shall attend the hearing and shall oppose the restoration of the patient in the probate court and in the appellate courts, if he deems it for the best interest of the public.

**Subd. 5. Commissioner may petition for release of patient.** When it appears to the commissioner that a person committed to his guardianship is no longer in need of such guardianship, he may petition the court of commitment, or the court to which the venue has been transferred for his discharge as such guardian.

**Subd. 6. Hearing; discharge.** Upon the filing of such petition the court shall fix the time and place for the hearing thereof, notice of which shall be given as the court directs. Upon proof of the petition the court shall make an order discharging the commissioner as such guardian.

[1935 c 72 s 183; 1939 c 270 s 11; 1943 c 612 s 13; 1947 c 622 s 12; 1959 c 267 s 3] (8992-183)

**525.79 APPEAL.** The commissioner may appeal to the district court in the manner prescribed by sections 525.71 to 525.74 for appeals by the state.

Any person aggrieved, other than the commissioner of public welfare, may appeal to the district court in the manner prescribed by sections 525.71 to 525.74. Such appeal shall not suspend the operation of the order appealed from until reversed or modified by the district court. Upon perfection of the appeal, the return shall be filed forthwith. The district court shall give the appeal preference over every other proceeding therein, and hear the matter de novo, without a jury, and in a summary manner. Upon determination of the appeal, judgment shall be entered pursuant to the provisions of sections 525.71 to 525.74.

[1935 c 72 s 184; 1943 c 612 s 14; 1947 c 622 s 13; 1959 c 267 s 3] (8992-184)

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

**525.80 REPRESENTATIVE AND MINOR.** As used in this chapter, the word "representative," unless the context otherwise indicates, includes executors, general administrators, special administrators, administrators with the will annexed, ad-

ministrators de bonis non, general guardians, and special guardians. The word "minor" means a person under the age of 21 years.

[1935 c. 72 s. 185; 1937 c. 435 s. 24] (8992-185)

**525.81 PETITION VERIFIED; DEFECT OF FORM SHALL NOT INVALIDATE.**

Every application shall be by petition signed and verified by or on behalf of the petitioner. No defect of form or in the statement of facts in any petition shall invalidate any proceedings.

[1935 c. 72 s. 186] (8992-186)

**525.82 VENUE.** Proceedings for the probate of a will or for administration shall be had in the county of the residence of the decedent at the time of his death; if the decedent was not a resident of this state, proceedings may be had in any county wherein he left any property or into which any property belonging to his estate may have come. Proceedings for the appointment of a guardian shall be had in the county of the ward's residence, or if he be a non-resident of this state, proceedings may be had in any county in which his property is situated. Such proceedings first legally commenced shall extend to all of the property of the decedent or ward in this state.

If proceedings are instituted in more than one county, they shall be stayed except in the county where first legally commenced until final determination of venue. If the proper venue be determined to be in another county, the court, after making and retaining a true copy of the entire file, shall transmit the original to the proper county and proceedings shall be commenced anew in such proper county.

[1935 c. 72 s. 187] (8992-187)

**525.83 NOTICE.** When notice of hearing is required by any provision of this chapter by reference to this section, such notice shall be given once a week for three consecutive weeks in a legal newspaper designated by the petitioner in the county wherein the proceedings are pending; or, if no such designation be made, in any legal newspaper in such county; or, if the city or village of the decedent's residence is situated in more than one county, in any legal newspaper in such city or village. The first publication shall be had within two weeks after the date of the order fixing time and place for the hearing.

At least 14 days prior to the date fixed for hearing the petitioner, his attorney or agent, shall in guardianship mail a copy of the notice to such persons as the court may direct and in estates shall mail a copy of the notice to each heir, devisee, and legatee whose name and address are known to him and, if the decedent was born in any foreign country, or left heirs, devisees, or legatees in any foreign country, to the consul or representative referred to in section 525.28, or, if there be none, to the chief diplomatic representative of such country at Washington, D. C., or to the secretary of state at St. Paul, Minnesota, who shall forward the same to such representative.

Proof of such publication and mailing shall be filed before the hearing. No defect in any notice nor in the publication or service thereof shall invalidate any proceedings.

[1935 c 72 s 188; 1941 c 422 s 1; 1957 c 30 s 1] (8992-188)

**525.84 ERRONEOUS ESCHEAT.** When a final decree has been made determining that any property has escheated to the state because the decedent left surviving no spouse nor kindred or because of the failure of a devisee or legatee to receive under a will admitted to probate, or when application is made to prove a will disposing of property escheated to the state, upon the petition of the representative or any person interested in the estate and upon 20 days' notice to the attorney general and to such other persons as the court may direct, the court may vacate the final decree, admit the will to probate as provided by law, and enter a final decree assigning the escheated property to the persons entitled thereto.

[1935 c. 72 s. 189] (8992-189)

**525.841 ESCHIEAT RETURNED.** In all such cases the state auditor shall be furnished with a certified copy of the probate court's order vacating the previous final decree and decreeing the escheated property to the persons entitled thereto, and upon notification of payment of the inheritance tax, the auditor shall draw his warrant on the state treasurer, or execute a proper conveyance to the persons designated in such final decree. In the event any escheated property has been sold pursuant to sections 11.08 or 94.09 to 94.16, then the warrant shall be for the appraised value as established during the administration of the decedent's estate.

There is hereby annually appropriated from any moneys in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated an amount sufficient to make payment to all such designated persons. No interest shall be allowed on any amount paid to such persons.

[1935 c 72 s 190; 1957 c 861 s 8] (8992-190)

**525.85 DISCLOSURE PROCEEDINGS.** Upon the filing of a petition by the representative or any person interested in the estate, alleging that any person has concealed, converted, embezzled, or disposed of any property belonging to the estate of a decedent or that any person has possession or knowledge of any will or codicil of such decedent, or of any instruments in writing relating to such property, the court, upon such notice as it may direct may order such person to appear before it for disclosure. Refusal to appear or submit to examination, or failure to obey any lawful order based thereon shall constitute contempt of court.

[1935 c. 72 s. 191] (8992-191)

**525.86 NO ABATEMENT.** No action or proceedings commenced by a representative shall abate by reason of the termination of his authority.

[1935 c. 72 s. 192] (8992-192)

**525.87 MURDERER DISINHERITED.** No person who feloniously takes or causes or procures another so to take the life of another shall inherit from such person or receive any interest in the estate of the decedent, or take by devise or bequest from him any portion of his estate. No beneficiary of any policy of insurance, or certificate of membership issued by any benevolent association or organizations, payable upon the death or disability of any person, who in like manner takes or causes or procures to be taken the life upon which such policy or certificate is issued, or who causes or procures a disability of such person, shall take the proceeds of such policy or certificate; provided, however, that an insurance company shall be discharged of all liability under a policy issued by it upon payment of the proceeds in accordance with the terms thereof, unless before such payment the company shall have knowledge that such beneficiary has taken or procured to be taken the life upon which such policy or certificate is issued, or that such beneficiary has caused or procured a disability of the person upon whose life such policy or certificate is issued.

[1935 c. 72 s. 193] (8992-193)

**525.88 STATE PATENTS.** Where patents for public lands have been or may be issued, in pursuance of any law of this state, to a person who has died before the date of such patent, the title to the land designated therein shall inure to and become vested in the heirs, devisees, or assignees of such deceased patentees as if the patent had been issued to the deceased person during life.

[1935 c. 72 s. 194] (8992-194)

**525.881 FEDERAL PATENTS.** When any person holding a homestead or tree claim entry under the laws of the United States has died before making final proof and final proof has afterwards been made by his heirs, devisees, or representatives, and a patent has been granted to his "heirs" or "devisees," the district court of the county in which the real estate so patented is situated, may determine who are such heirs or devisees, and may determine their respective shares in such homestead or tree claim. The provisions of the code of civil procedure relating to the determination of adverse claims to real estate in so far as the same may be applicable, shall pertain to and govern the procedure in the action provided for in this section.

[1921 c. 36 s. 2; 1935 c. 72 s. 195] (8992-195)

**525.89 CITATION, PROBATE CODE.** Sections 525.01 to 525.89 may be cited as the Minnesota probate code.

[1935 c 72 s 199] (8992-199)

**525.90 UNIFORM SIMULTANEOUS DEATH ACT.** Subdivision 1. **Title.** Where the title to property or the devolution thereof depends upon priority of death and there is no sufficient evidence that the persons have died otherwise than simultaneously, the property of each person shall be disposed of as if he had survived, except as provided otherwise in this section.

**Subd. 2. Division of property.** Where two or more beneficiaries are designated to take successively by reason of survivorship under another person's disposition of property and there is no sufficient evidence that these beneficiaries have died otherwise than simultaneously the property thus disposed of shall be divided into as

many equal portions as there are successive beneficiaries and these portions shall be distributed respectively to those who would have taken in the event that each designated beneficiary had survived.

Subd. 3. **Division of property.** Where there is no sufficient evidence that two joint tenants or tenants by the entirety have died otherwise than simultaneously the property so held shall be distributed one-half as if one had survived and one-half as if the other had survived. If there are more than two joint tenants and all of them have so died the property thus distributed shall be in the proportion that one bears to the whole number of joint tenants.

Subd. 4. **Division of property.** Where the insured and the beneficiary in a policy of life or accident insurance have died and there is no sufficient evidence that they have died otherwise than simultaneously the proceeds of the policy shall be distributed as if the insured had survived the beneficiary.

Subd. 5. **Not retroactive.** This section shall not apply to the distribution of the property of a person who has died before it takes effect.

Subd. 6. **Application.** This section shall not apply in the case of wills, living trusts, deeds, or contracts of insurance wherein provision has been made for distribution of property different from the provisions of this section.

Subd. 7. **Citation.** This section may be cited as the Uniform Simultaneous Death Act.

[1943 c 248 s 1-7]

**525.91 LETTERS, CONTENTS.** All letters issued by the probate courts to representatives of estates of deceased persons shall state the date of death of the deceased.

[1951 c 140 s 1]