

PROBATE TERMS (GLOSSARY)

Here are some important probate terms you'll want to know:

- **Beneficiary:** A person who inherits when there is a Will.
- **Custodian of the Will:** The person who has the Will when the person who wrote the Will dies.
- **Decedent (or deceased):** The person who died.
- **Decedent's estate:** All the property (real or personal) that a person owned at the time of death.
- **Executor:** A person named in a Will and appointed by the Court to carry out the dead person's wishes.
- **Heir:** A person who inherits when there is no Will.
- **Intestate:** When someone dies without leaving a Will.
- **Intestate succession:** The order of who inherits the property when someone dies without a Will.
- **Legatees, or devisees:** People who are named in a Will.
- **Personal property:** Things like cash, stocks, jewelry, clothing, furniture, or cars.
- **Personal representative (or administrator or executor):** The person responsible for overseeing the distribution of the estate.
- **Probate:** The process of deciding where, how, and to whom to distribute the decedent's property.
- **Real property:** Buildings and land.
- **Testate:** When someone dies leaving a Will.
- **Trust:** When one person (trustee) holds property at another person's (settlor's) request for the benefit of someone else (the beneficiary).
- **Will:** A legal paper that lists a person's wishes about what will happen to his/her property after death.