

ITEMS AND DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO OPEN A PROBATE ESTATE

1. Certified *original* death certificate.
2. The decedent's *original* Last Will and Testament, (if one exists), and any and all Codicils or Memoranda. If you cannot locate the original Last Will and Testament, is there a copy?
3. Copy of the funeral bill and eventually a receipt for payment.
4. Copy of the newspaper obituary or funeral program.
5. Names and complete addresses of spouse and children. If there is no spouse or children, you will need the names of heirs, (persons who inherit if decedent passed without a Will), names and complete addresses of devisees (persons listed in the Will), and the year of birth for any minors.
6. Copies of the deeds to any real estate owned by the decedent at the date of death. If you have lost or cannot locate any of the deeds, you can obtain a copy from the Register of Deeds Office, or provide us with the Tax Map Number for the property from a property tax bill.
7. Copies of any bank or account statements in the decedent's name at the time of death.
8. Copies of any mortgages or liens on the property.
9. A list of vehicles and other titled personal property such as boats, trailers, etc.