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What is the Probate Process?

If you've ever written a will or begun the process, you have likely heard the word: probate. It's not always a word with bad connotations. In some cases, it may even be helpful. The team at Marcia Campbell, CPA is committed to helping California residents with questions about probate.

Learn more about what the probate process is and get details on what happens when a will is and isn't involved.

What is Probate?

Probate is the legal process that locates and determines the value of a decedent's assets, pays their final bills and taxes, and distributes the remainder of the estate to the rightful beneficiaries.

It falls on the *executor* of a will to prove the will's authenticity and present the court with a list of items

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A Brief History of St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated annually on March 17, the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over 1,000 years. On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink and feast—on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

Who was St. Patrick?

Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the patron saint of Ireland and its national apostle. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. He later escaped, but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people.

In the centuries following Patrick's death (believed to have been on March 17, 461), the mythology surrounding his life became ever more ingrained in the Irish culture: Perhaps the most well-known legend of St. Patrick is that he explained the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock.

When was the First St. Patrick's Day Celebrated?

Since around the 9th or 10th century, people in

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What Our Clients Say About Us

**“Marcia has been doing our
taxes for years and we have
always been extremely pleased.
We will remain her clients to
the end.”**

—JS

What is the Probate Process?.....*Continued From Pg. 1*

such as the deceased's property, unpaid debt, and inheritance. Only then will creditors and relatives be notified of the remaining assets.

Executor: Named in the will, or is appointed by a judge (if no will exists).

Probate Without a Will

Probate without a will is complicated and may be difficult for a family. If a person dies without a will, their assets are in an intestacy state meaning the deceased's assets become the responsibility of the probate court. The court will select a person to be a personal representative to handle the distribution of the deceased's assets.

Probate With a Will

Probate with a will takes careful planning but provides a smoother experience for all involved. An executor is typically named in the will, and it is this person who begins the probate process. The person named executor is chosen by the deceased. This is less of a burden on families as responsibilities are handled by the executor.

The Probate Process

In both cases, the assets of a person with or without a will inevitably go through the probate process. It is only a matter of how smooth the process is after a person dies – unless you avoid probate altogether. Without a will, probate can be costly and upsetting for families.

Another way to reduce the stress of probate is to set up a trust to distribute assets. A trust is a fine option to ensure that your loved ones are taken care of. A trust does not normally have to go through probate.

Source: www.mccampbellcpa.com

Please contact our office for more information.†

“Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud.”

~ Maya Angelou

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

March 17th 2022

A Brief History of St. Patrick's Day*Continued From Pg. 1*

Ireland have been observing the Roman Catholic feast day of St. Patrick on March 17th. The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland but in America. Records show that a St. Patrick's Day parade was held on March 17, 1601 in a Spanish colony in what is now St. Augustine, Florida. The parade, and a St. Patrick's Day celebration a year earlier were organized by the Spanish Colony's Irish vicar Ricardo Artur.

More than a century later, homesick Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched in New York City on March 17, 1772 to honor the Irish patron saint. Enthusiasm for the St. Patrick's Day parades in New York City, Boston and other early American cities only grew from there.

Growth of St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

Over the next 35 years, Irish patriotism among American immigrants flourished, prompting the rise of so-called “Irish Aid” societies like the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and the Hibernian Society. Each group would hold annual parades featuring bagpipes (which actually first became popular in the Scottish and British armies) and drums.

In 1848, several New York Irish Aid societies decided to unite their parades to form one official New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. Today, that parade is the world's oldest civilian parade and the largest in the United States, with over 150,000 participants. Each year, nearly 3 million people line the 1.5 mile parade route to watch the procession, which takes more than five hours. Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia and Savannah also celebrate the day with parades involving between 10,000 and 20,000 participants each. In 2020, the New York City parade was one of the first major city events to be cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; it was again cancelled in 2021.

Source: <https://www.history.com/topics/st-patricks-day/history-of-st-patricks-day>

Please contact our office for more information.†



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to receive your newsletter
by e-mail!