



THE RULES OF INTESTACY

Where somebody dies without leaving a valid Will, they are said to die intestate. In this circumstance, their estate will devolve in accordance with the Intestacy Rules, which are set out in statute.

The intestacy rules contain a list of people who are entitled to share in the estate of the deceased in order of priority.

It is important at this point to note that not all of a person's estate will necessarily follow the intestacy rules. There are separate rules for assets held jointly whereby such assets will pass by what is known as survivorship to the surviving joint owner. If, for example, a deceased held a joint bank account, this account will pass automatically to the joint account holder rather than via a Will or the intestacy rules.

When determining who should inherit an estate under the intestacy rules, you must ask the following questions:

1. Was the deceased survived by a spouse or civil partner?

If **YES** - go to question 2

If **NO** - go to question 3

2. Is the estate worth more than £270, 000?

If **YES** - the first £270,000 together with all personal items will pass to the spouse. The balance remaining is then divided as to 50% for the spouse absolutely and the 50% for any children of the deceased living at their death. If there are no children, the spouse will inherit everything

If **NO** - the entire estate will pass to the spouse

3. Did the deceased have children?

If **YES** - the entire estate is divided equally between the children. If any children had pre-deceased their parent, any children they leave will inherit their share equally.

If **NO** - go to question 4

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Transparent with regard to costs. Excellent".
Ms M, Melksham*

4. Did the deceased have living parents?

If **YES** - the parents will share the estate equally

If **NO** - go to question 5

5. Did the deceased have siblings?

If **YES** - the siblings will share the estate equally. If any sibling pre-deceased, any children they leave will inherit their share equally.

If **NO** - go to question 6

6. Did the deceased have half-siblings?

If **YES** - the half-siblings will share the estate equally. If any half-sibling pre-deceased, any children they leave will inherit their share equally.

If **NO** - go to question 7

7. Did the deceased have living grandparents?

If **YES** - the grandparents will share the estate equally.

If **NO** - go to question 8

8. Did the deceased have any aunts or uncles?

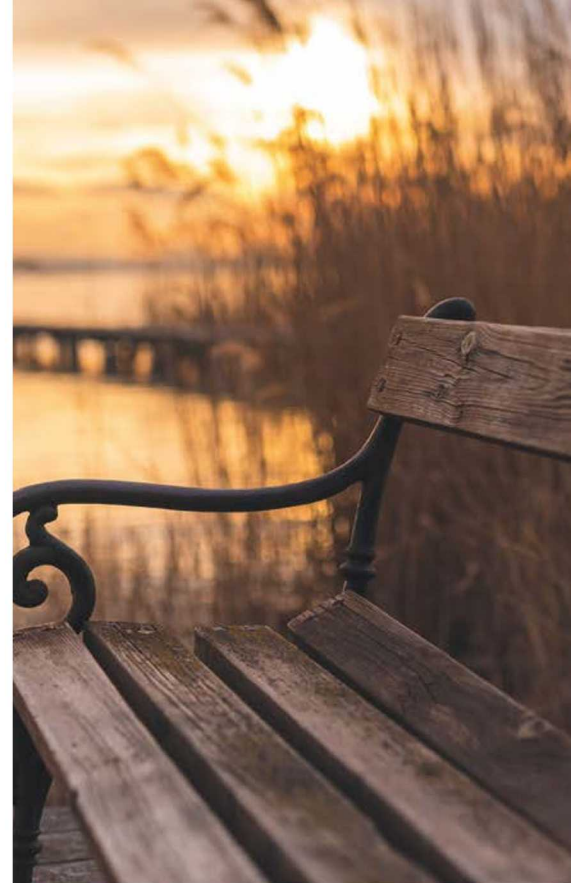
If **YES** - the aunts and uncles will share the estate equally. If any aunt or uncle pre-deceased, any children they leave will inherit their share equally.

If **NO** - go to question 9

9. Did the deceased have any half-aunts or half-uncles?

If **YES** - the half-aunts and half-uncles will share the estate equally. If any half-aunt or half-uncle pre-deceased, any children they leave will inherit their share equally.

If **NO** - the entire estate will pass to the Crown.



WHAT OUR CLIENTS HAD TO SAY

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"Very understanding. I'd recommend Emma Taylor for all later life matters"
Mrs W, Chippenham

"We liked Phillip's quiet efficiency, his understanding and knowledge of the subject"
R & L Bunnett, Corsham



HAVE YOU BEEN PUTTING OFF UPDATING YOUR WILL?

Get in touch today.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN SOMEONE DIES?

Speak to your lawyer for more
information.

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