

What Happens If You Die Without a Will in Michigan?

Overview

If you die without a will in Michigan, you are said to have died "intestate." This means Michigan law decides who gets your property-not you. The probate court will follow Michigan's intestacy laws to distribute your estate.

Who Gets Your Property?

1. If you're married with no kids or parents living:
 - Your spouse gets everything.
2. If you're married with kids (only with your spouse):
 - Your spouse gets the first \$250,000, and the rest is split with your kids.
3. If you have kids from another relationship:
 - Your spouse gets the first \$150,000, and the rest is split with your kids.
4. If you're single with children:
 - Your children inherit everything equally.
5. If you have no spouse or children:
 - Your parents inherit. If none, your siblings do. If none, it goes to more distant relatives.

What About the Court Process?

The court will:

- Appoint a Personal Representative (executor)
- Pay off your debts and taxes
- Distribute remaining property according to state law

Important Notes

- The State of Michigan only gets your property if you have no living relatives at all.
- Without a will, you lose control over who inherits your property or who takes care of your children.