

1. 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.