Notice Regarding Filing of Small Estate Affidavits In El Paso County Probate Courts

By Administrative Order dated August 14, 2014, Effective October 1, 2014, The El Paso County Probate Courts Will ONLY approve Small Estate Affidavits that transfer Property between:

A Deceased Spouse and a Surviving Spouse;

A Decedent and an unmarried Adult child living in the Homestead.

All other Small Estate Affidavits will be DENIED.

Aviso De Cambios Relacionados A Declaraciones Juradas De Sucesion De Los Tribunales Testamentarios Del Condado de El Paso, Texas:

Por Orden Administriva, De la Fecha 14 de Agosto del 2014 y efectivo a partir del 1 de Octubre del 2014, los Tribunales de Sucesion Testamentarias del condado de El Paso, TX, solo aceptaran Declaraciones Juradas De Sucesion que Transfieran Propiedad Y/O Bienes Entre:

El Conyuge Difunto Y El Conyuge Sobreviviente;

El difunto y su descendiente soltero de mayor edad que viva en El Hogar Del Difunto.

Su documento NO SERA APROBADO si no cumple con los requisitos nombrados anteriormente.

CIVIL CASE INFORMATION SHEET

CAUSE NUMBER (FOR	CLERK USE ONLYJ:		Co	OURT (FOR	CLERK USI	E ONLY): _	
STYLED(e	e.g., John Smith v. All American Insurance	- Carling	** Ann Ionas In the M	- Coha E		• 1	
A civil case information sheet file	e.g., John Smith V. All American Insurance ust be completed and submitted whe nent petition for modification or mot	ien an orig	iginal petition or applicat	ation is filed	d to initiate	a new civi	il, family law, probate, or mental on should be the best available at
	on completing case information shee	et:	Names of parties in e	case:	生类者	Person	or entity completing sheet is:
Name:	Email:		Plaintiff(s)/Petitioner(s			☐ Attorney for Plaintiff/Petitioner ☐ Pro Se Plaintiff/Petitioner ☐ Title IV-D Agency ☐ Other:	
Address:	Telephone:						al Parties in Child Support Case:
City/State/Zip:	Fax:		Defendant(s)/Respond	Defendant(s)/Respondent(s):		Custodial	Parent:
Signature:	State Bar No:	An and the grant and the same gap.			***************************************	todial Parent:	
and the state of t			*****	***		Presumed Father:	
2. Indicate case type, or identify	the most important issue in the cas	leolect	(Attach additional page as nec	cessary to list an	Il parties]		
	Civil	E (Secto	onty 1);			Fam	nily Law
Contract	Injury or Damage			53.38			Post-judgment Actions
Debt/Contract Consumer/DTPA Debt/Contract Fraud/Misrepresentation Other Debt/Contract: Foreclosure Home Equity—Expedited Other Foreclosure	Assault Battery Construction Defamation Malpractice Accounting Legal Medical Other Professional Liability	Col	Real Property minent Domain/ ondemnation artition uset Title espass to Try Title ther Property:	□Annt □Decla <i>Divorce</i> □W	lare Marriag	ge Void en	(uon-Title IV-D) Enforcement Modification—Custody Modification—Other Title IV-D Enforcement/Modification Paternity Reciprocals (UIFSA) Support Order
Franchise Insurance	Motor Vehicle Accident	K	Related to Criminal Matters	T on	her Family	T AND	n Actor not a sta
☐Landlord/Tenant ☐Non-Competition ☐Partnership ☐Other Contract:	☐ Premises Product Liability ☐ Asbestos/Silica ☐ Other Product Liability List Product: ☐ Other Injury or Damage:	□Jud □Nor □Sei □Wri	xpunction dgment Nisi on-Disclosure rizure/Forfeiture rit of Habeas Corpus— re-indictment	□Enfo Judg □Habo □Nam □Proto □Rem	orce Foreign gment eas Corpus ne Change ective Order noval of Disabilities Minority		Parent-Child Relationship Adoption/Adoption with Termination Child Protection Child Support Custody or Visitation Gestational Parenting Grandparent Access Parentage/Paternity
Employment	Other	r Civil					Termination of Parental Rights
☐ Discrimination ☐ Retaliation ☐ Termination ☐ Workers` Compensation ☐ Other Employment:	☐ Administrative Appeal ☐ Antitrust/Unfair Competition ☐ Code Violations ☐ Foreign Judgment ☐ Intellectual Property	□Lav □Per □Sec □Tor	awyer Discipline repetuate Testimony counties/Stock ortious Interference ther:				Other Parent-Child:
Tax			Probate & M			1	
☐Tax Appraisal ☐Tax Delinquency ☐Other Tax	Probate Wills/Intestate Administration Guardianship—Adu □Dependent Administration □Guardianship—Mine □Independent Administration □Mental Health □Other Estate Proceedings □Other:					î F	
3. Indicate procedure or remedy	, if applicable (may select more than			13 6 17	13.65	3:13	
	Garnish Garnish Interplet License Mandan Post-jud			☐Protect ☐Receiv ☐Seques ☐Tempo	stration orary Restra	nedy aining Order/Injunction	
☐ Less than \$100,000, including the Less than \$100,000 and non-medium of the Cover \$100,000 but not more the ☐ Over \$200,000 but not more the ☐ Over \$1,000,000	damages of any kind, penalties, costs nonetary relief han \$200,000	s, expense	es, pre-judgment interest,	, and attorne	ey fees		

TEXAS MEDICAID ESTATE RECOVERY PROGRAM (MERP) AUTHORIZATION AND MERP CERTIFICATION

FROM:	Name:	
	Address	
	Phone Number:	Fax Number:
RE:		Date of Death:
		al Security Number:
	Complete Property Address:	
	Authorization to Obta (To be Completed by Heirs/Be	CTION 1: ain MERP Claim Information eneficiaries or Estate Representative)
Deceased O	wner is exempt or is not subject to a MERP clair	of the Deceased Owner are unable to certify that the estate of the im, and hereby authorizes MERP to complete Section 2 of this form MERP claim against Deceased Owner to the requestor above.
Ву:		Ву:
	(Signature)	(Signature)
Printed Nam	ne:	Printed Name:
	CERTIFICA	CTION 2 ATION BY MERP Inpleted by MERP)
initial	Based on the Social Security Number provided	d, there is no pending MERP Claim against the Deceased Owner's to file a MERP Claim against the Deceased Owner's estate.
initial	There is a MERP Claim filed against the Dece evidenced by the attached document.	ased Owner's estate in amount of \$, as
initial		e Deceased Owner's estate in the amount of \$
private insura and Holds d	iose estates may include assets such as, but no rance policies, should also check with the He lepartment by calling: (512) 438-2200, #4 to de	ve against this estate. Estate representatives of deceased Medicaid of limited to, qualified income trusts, other trusts, annuities, torts, or ealth and Human Services Commission's Provider Recoupments etermine if HHSC may have other claims on this estate.
TEXAS MER	P REPRESENTATIVE	
1		
Signature		Date

FAX OR MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO:

HMS - The Texas Medicaid Estate Recovery Contractor

5615 High Point Drive, Suite 100

Irving, Texas 75038

Judge Patricia B. Chew Probate Court No. 1 500 E. San Antonio, 12th Floor El Paso, Texas 79901 Judge Eduardo A. Gamboa Probate Court No. 2 500 E. San Antonio, 4th Floor El Paso, Texas 79901

Court Policy Regarding Pro Se Applicants

Under Texas law, individuals applying for letters testamentary, letters of administration, determinations of heirship, and guardianships of the person or estate must be represented by a licensed attorney. This rule follows from the requirement that only a licensed attorney may represent the interests of third-party individuals or entities. The only time a *pro se* applicant may proceed in court is when truly representing only himself or herself.

Frequently Asked Questions

O: What is a pro se? A pro se is an individual who has not retained a lawyer and appears in court to represent himself and no other person A: or entity. Can I still serve as an executor, administrator, or guardian even though I'm not a lawyer? Q: A: Yes. You do not need to be a lawyer to serve as an executor, administrator, or guardian. However, the executor, administrator, or guardian must be represented by counsel. O: But I'm the only one that needs letters testamentary. As executor, how would I be representing the interests of others? As executor of a decedent's estate, you don't represent only yourself. An executor represents the interests of A: beneficiaries and creditors. This responsibility to act for the benefit of another is known as a fiduciary relationship. It gives rise to certain legal obligations and responsibilities that require legal expertise. The attorney you hire represents you in your capacity as executor and assists you in representing those for whom you are responsible. If I get the paperwork from a law library or the Internet, can I fill it out and file it? Isn't that what lawyers do? Q: Lawyers don't just fill out forms. Lawyers (1) determine what method of probate or guardianship is appropriate in a A: particular situation, (2) create or adapt any necessary paperwork, and (3) advise the client about the ongoing responsibilities of a fiduciary. Unless you are a lawyer, you are creating legal pleadings while acting as a fiduciary would constitute the unauthorized practice of law. As a pro se, what proceedings can I do on my own? Q: The only proceedings that you can handle as a pro se are those in which you truly would be representing only A:

Name Printed Signature

Date: _____

anyone falsely swearing that the estate has no creditors is subject to a perjury charge.

yourself. For example, a pro se may apply to probate a will as a muniment of title when he or she is the sole beneficiary under a will and there are no debts against the estate other than those secured by liens against real estate. This procedure can be a viable option in some situations, but not in others. Whether a muniment of title is the correct probate procedure for a particular situation is a legal decision that is best made by a lawyer. Note that

Approved: 01/27/16

	No				
Es	tate of		Statutory Probate Court No.		
	,	§ 8	of		
De	ceased.	<i></i>	El Paso County, Texas		
	Small Es	state Af	fidavit		
wit foll	On the dates indicated below, all of the D nesses personally appeared and, on their or lowing facts, pursuant to Chapter 205 of the	ath, did sv	vear or affirm to the accuracy of the		
A.	Decedent,		, died on the day		
	Decedent,, 20	_ in	County, Texas. A copy		
	of Decedent's death certificate will be pro				
B.	More than 30 days have elapsed since De	cedent's d	eath.		
	Decedent was a resident of and domiciledCounty, Texas, at the time o	at f death. [I]	in f not El Paso County, the affidavit must include facts		
	porting venue in El Paso County.] Decedent died without a will.		•		
E.	No administration is pending or has been	granted in	Decedent's estate and none appears necessary.		
F.	The total value of Decedent's estate assets exempt property is \$75,000.00 or less,	on the da	te of this affidavit, not including homestead and		
G.	The total value of Decedent's estate assets	, not inclu	ding homestead and exempt property, exceeds		
	the total value of known liabilities.		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
Н.	Medicaid - check the accurate box:				
	\Box The Decedent did not apply for and re- \underline{OR}	ceive Med	licaid benefits on or after March 1, 2005.		
	Decedent did apply for and receive Me Medicaid Estates Recovery Program c OR	edicaid ber laim is list	nefits on or after March 1, 2005, and the ted as a liability in section "J" below.		
	The Decedent did apply for and receive Medicaid claim against the estate. [If the Medicaid Estate Recovery Program (N	his box is 1ERP) cer	d benefits on or after March 1, 2005, but there is no checked, applicant(s) must either (1) file a tification that decedent's estate is not subject to a on providing that a MERP claim will not be filed]		

I. All assets of the Decedent's estate and their values are listed here.

NOTE: Community property is property acquired during marriage other than by gift or inheritance.

Separate property is property owned before marriage or acquired by gift or inheritance during marriage.

Description of Asset(s) List with enough detail to identify exactly what the asset is. For example, give bank name and last four digits of an account number, give life insurance company name; give description of car plus VIN number, give address & legal description of real property.	\$\$ value of Decedent's interest on date of affidavit For each asset, list the value of Decedent's interest in that asset. An affidavit cannot be approved with an asset of "unknown" value.	Additional information If decedent was married, indicate: 1. whether each asset was community or separate property, and 2. facts that explain why the asset was community or separate, and total value of each community property asset. If decedent was survived by a spouse, minor children, or unmarried adult children who lived with decedent, the list of known estate assets must indicate which assets applicant claims are exempt. See checklist for more information. Use additional pages as necessary.

I.	All liabilities/debts of the Decedent's estate and their values are listed here all of Decedent's debts and other liabilities including all credit card balance utility bills, etc. – everything owed by Decedent or Decedent's estate and new tility bills, etc. – everything owed by Decedent or Decedent's estate and new tility bills, etc. – everything owed by Decedent or Decedent's estate and new tility bills, etc. – everything owed by Decedent or Decedent's estate and new tility bills, etc. – everything owed by Decedent or Decedent's estate and new tility bills, etc. – everything owed by Decedent or Decedent's estate and new tility bills, etc. – everything owed by Decedent or Decedent's estate and new tility bills, etc. – everything owed by Decedent or Decedent's estate and new tility bills, etc. – everything owed by Decedent or Decedent's estate and new tility bills, etc. – everything owed by Decedent or Decedent's estate and new tility bills, etc. – everything owed by Decedent or Decedent's estate and new tility bills, etc. – everything owed by Decedent or Decedent's estate and new tility bills, etc. – everything owed by Decedent or Decedent's estate and new tility bills.	es, doctor and hospital b
	If none, write "none."	
	If funeral debts or attorney's fees and expenses will be paid from estate	assets, list them here.
De	escription of Liabilities / Debts: List with enough detail to identify the creditor & any account.	Balance Due
tinı	ue list as necessary. If list is continued on another page, please note.)	
	Attorney's Fees	
If	you did not list attorney's fees as a liability above but one or more distrib	utees have paid or will
at	torney's fees for this small estate affidavit, indicate the amount of those fee	es here: \$
A	lso indicate who has paid or will pay the fees:	

homestead and exempt property, exceed the liabilities of Decedent's estate. [Put check marks in the appropriate small boxes, and provide additional information as indicated. Family History #1: Marriage. On the date of Decedent's death, Decedent was a single person. **OR** On the date of Decedent's death, Decedent was married to The date and place they were married: Family History #2: Children. Decedent had no children by birth or adoption, and Decedent did not take any children into Decedent's home to raise as a child. (Skip to Family History #4 if you check this box.) **OR** The following children were born to or adopted by Decedent. List all children, whether or not the child is still alive and whether or not parental rights were later terminated. If parental rights were terminated for any child, give details on separate page(s). Birth date, if known Child's name Name of child's other parent (Continue list as necessary. If list is continued on another page, please note.)

K. The following facts regarding Decedent's family history show who is entitled to what share of Decedent's estate, to the extent that the assets of Decedent's estate, exclusive of

Far	nily History #3: Children	, part 2.	Answer if Dec	edent had any cl	nildren.				
	All of Decedent's children, by be died after the Decedent, contact								
<u>OR</u>									
	☐ The following of Decedent's children, by birth or adoption, died <u>before</u> the Decedent's death and were survived by children (or grandchildren or great-grandchildren):								
	Name of deceased child (followed by the name of the deceased child's other parent in parentheses)	Date child died	(if any of these child	en of the deceased child ren died before Decedent, us plus names & birth dates of all					
 (Continue list as necessary. If list is continued on another page, please note.) AND/OR □ The following of Decedent's children, by birth or adoption, died before the Decedent's death and were not survived by any children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren: 									
	Name of deceased child			Date child died]				
	(Continue list as necessary. If list is c	ontinued on a	nother page, please	note.)					
	If Decedent was surv grandchildren, you do no Family History #5 about S	t need to and listers and B	swer Family Histo	ory #4 about Parent	s or wing				
Fa	mily History #4: Parents.								
\mathbb{I}_{\square}	The Decedent was survived by		is.		(mother)				
	and		(father).						
OR									
	Decedent was survived by only	y o ne pare nt	· • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •						
	Decedent's other parent,			, died on	I				
OF					N 40 37 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 10				
	Both of Decedent's parents die	ed before De	ecedent's death.						

The f		t Deceden	t's sister:	s and brothers is <u>not</u> needed if dren, or great-grandchildren.	Decedent was			
(The following are all of Decedent's brothers and sisters who were alive on the date Decedent died, including half-brothers and half-sisters who were born to either of Decedent's parents. If none, write "none." If any of the following are now deceased, indicate date of death.							
	Name of brother or sister			State whether full or half-sibling	Birth date			
			,					
ı								
ı								
	(Continue list as necessary. If lis	it is continue	d on anoth	er page, please note.)				
AND)							
	- The following of Decedent			ers (including half-brothers and defore Decedent's death. I				
	Name of deceased brother or sister (followed by the date of death in parentheses)	Full or half sibling?	or sister	f all children of the deceased brother (nephews and nieces of Decedent) e alive on the date Decedent died	Birth dates of nieces & nephews			
(Cor	tinue list as necessary. If list is a	continued on	another p	age, please note.)				

Family History #6: Other.

Fill out a separate page (or pages) if Decedent was survived by none of the following: spouse, child, grandchild, parent, brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, niece, or nephew. If Decedent was survived by none of the above, list all of the surviving relatives of Decedent on a separate page. Specify Decedent's family history with respect to each of the survivors, giving sufficient detail about names, birth dates, death dates, and relationships to explain how each survivor is related to Decedent.

EVERYONE MUST FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING CHART.

Based on the family history given in this Affidavit, the following chart lists all of the Decedent's heirs at law, together with their fractional interests in Decedent's estate:

For each Distributee, list: 1. Name 2. Address 3. Telephone number 4. Email address	Share of separate personal property (this column MUST be filled out)	Share of separate real property (this column MUST be filled out, even if you do not list any real property)	Share of decedent's community property (if decedent was married, you must always fill out this column)
	Learning plants		

(Continue list as necessary. If list is continued on another page, please note.)

Affidavits and signatures of all Distributee(s).

As needed, include other signature pages for additional Distributees.

*** Every signature page for every distributee must include the box below:

We, as Distributees of the Decedent and as indicated by our signatures below, do solemnly swear or affirm the following:

- the foregoing Affidavit was completed by persons who have actual knowledge of the stated facts:
- all of the facts stated in the foregoing Affidavit are true and complete; and
- each of us has legal capacity.

We pray that this Affidavit be filed in the records of the El Paso County Clerk; that the same be approved by the Court; and that the Clerk issue certified copies of this Affidavit and the order approving it as evidence of Distributees' right to inherit the property of Decedent as described above.

We understand that Estates Code §205.007(c) provides that "[e]ach person who execute[s] [this] affidavit is liable for any damage or loss to any person that arises from a payment, delivery, transfer, or issuance made in reliance on the affidavit."

STATE OF	
I am a Distributee in the Estate of	sonal knowledge of the facts stated in the foregoing Affidavit are true and complete to the best of my
Distributee's printed name	Distributee's signature
SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before r	ne by [name of
Distributee], a Distributee, on this the	day of, 20
(SEAL)	Notary Public, State of

Every signature page for a distributee must include the box below:

We, as Distributees of the Decedent and as indicated by our signatures below, do solemnly swear or affirm the following:

- the foregoing Affidavit was completed by persons who have actual knowledge of the stated facts;
- all of the facts stated in the foregoing Affidavit are true and complete; and
- each of us has legal capacity.

We pray that this Affidavit be filed in the records of the El Paso County Clerk; that the same be approved by the Court; and that the Clerk issue certified copies of this Affidavit and the order approving it as evidence of Distributees' right to inherit the property of Decedent as described above.

We understand that Estates Code §205.007(c) provides that "[e]ach person who execute[s] [this] affidavit is liable for any damage or loss to any person that arises from a payment, delivery, transfer, or issuance made in reliance on the affidavit."

STATE OF	
I am a Distributee in the Estate of	owledge of the facts stated in the foregoing it are true and complete to the best of my
Distributee's printed name	Distributee's signature
SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me by day of	
(SEAL)	Notary Public, State of

Affidavits and signatures of two disinterested witnesses

STATE OFCOUNTY OF	§ 8		
I have no interest in the Estate of _		, Decease	ed, and am not
related to Decedent under the laws			
affirm that the facts contained in th	is Affidavit reg	garding family history, assets, and	d liabilities are
true and complete to the best of my	knowledge. I	have known the Decedent for	years.
The Decedent was my		(relationship).	
execute[s] [this] affidavit is	s liable for any	7(c) provides that "[e]ach person damage or loss to any person the ance made in reliance on the aff	at arises
Disinterested Witness's printed na Address:		Disinterested Witness's signer Phone No.	
SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED witness, a disinterested witness, on			
(SEAL)		Notary Public, State	of
	*****************************		42-01-20-2-1-4

STATE OFCOUNTY OF	§ §			
I have no interest in the Estate of			, Deceased, and	am not
related to Decedent under the laws				
affirm that the facts contained in the	is Affidavit reg	arding fa	mily history, assets, and liabil	ities are
true and complete to the best of my	knowledge. I	nave knov	vn the Decedent for	_ years.
The Decedent was my		(relationship).	
execute[s] [this] affidavit is from a payment, delivery, to Disinterested Witness's printed nar	liable for any ransfer, or issu	damage o ance mad Disir	des that "[e]ach person who ir loss to any person that arise le in reliance on the affidavit."	
SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED	before me by			_ [name of
witness], disinterested witness, on this	s the	day of	, 20	•
(SEAL)			Notary Public, State of	
(

Prepared in the Law Office of: [Attorney signature block]