

CHECKLIST: For an Executor

- Assist with the Funeral
- Find the original Estate Planning Documents and Last Will
- Contact Attorney to Review Documents and Obtain Advice on the Administrative Process
- Obtain new Taxpayer Identification Number for the Estate from the Internal Revenue Service (social security number ceases upon death)
- Keep Beneficiaries Informed
- Order Death Certificates
- Put Together Team of Advisors
- Inventory Assets & Determine Current Values
- Notify Bank and Other Financial Institutions
- Open probate in county circuit court and receive Letters of Qualification as Executor
- Order sufficient number of the Letters of Qualification at the Probate appointment
- Open a checking account in the name of the estate with your name as the executor
- Assess the assets of the estate against the debts of the estate, including funeral costs, costs of final illness, to determine if the estate is solvent.

Consult an attorney if you believe the estate's debts exceed the assets, before making any disbursements

- Make Partial Distributions to beneficiaries, if Needed
- Collect IRA, Retirement and Insurance Benefits
- Take Care of Record Keeping & File Estate and Income Tax Returns
- Pay Bills & Prepare Inventory if required, and prepare an Accounting if the beneficiaries will need one
- Distribute Assets According to Terms of the Will