

SMALL ESTATE AFFIDAVIT
755 ILCS 5/25-1

(To be used only when decedent died on or after September 4, 1991 but before August 15, 2025)

I, _____, (affiant) on oath state:

- 1. a. My post office address is: _____
b. My residence address is: _____
c. I understand that, if I am an out-of-state resident, I submit myself to the jurisdiction of Illinois courts for all matters related to the preparation and use of this affidavit. My agent for service of process in Illinois is:
Name _____ Address _____
City/St/Zip _____ Phone: _____

I understand that if no person is named above as my agent for service or, if for any reason, service on the named person cannot be effectuated, the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois is recognized by Illinois law as my agent for service of process.

- 2. The decedent's name is _____;
3. The date of the decedent's death was _____, and I have attached a copy of the death certificate hereto.
4. The decedent's place of residence immediately before his/her death was _____;
5. No Letters of Office are now outstanding on the decedent's estate and no petition for letters is contemplated or pending in Illinois or in any other jurisdiction, to my knowledge;
6. The gross value of the decedent's entire personal estate, including the value of all property passing to any party either by intestacy or under a will, does not exceed \$100,000. (Attach a list of each asset, e.g. cash, stock and its fair market value.)
7. Choose either 7(a) or 7(b).
a. All of the decedent's funeral expenses and other debts, have been paid, or
b. All of the decedent's known unpaid debts are listed and classified as follows (include the name, post office address and amount):

Class 1: funeral and burial expenses, which include reasonable amounts paid for a burial space, crypt, or niche; a marker on the burial space; and care of the burial space, crypt, or niche; expenses of administration; and statutory custodial claims as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Post Office Address, Amount. Includes three rows of blank lines for data entry.

Class 2: the surviving spouse's award or child's award, if applicable, as follows:

Name and Post Office Address	Amount
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Class 3: debts due the United States, as follows:

Name and Post Office Address	Amount
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Class 4: money due employees of the decedent of not more than \$800 for each claimant for services rendered within four (4) months prior to the decedent's death and expenses attending the last illness, as follows:

Name and Post Office Address	Amount
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Class 5: money and property received or held in trust by the decedent which cannot be identified or traced, as follows:

Name and Post Office Address	Amount
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Class 6: debts due the State of Illinois and any county, township, city, town, village, or school district located within Illinois, as follows:

Name and Post Office Address	Amount
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Class 7: all other claims, as follows:

Name and Post Office Address	Amount
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7.5 I understand that all valid claims against the decedent's estate described in paragraph 7 must be paid by me from the decedent's estate before any distribution is made to any heir or legatee. I further understand that the decedent's estate should pay all claims in the order set forth above, and if the decedent's estate is insufficient to pay the claims in any one class, the claims in that class shall be paid pro rata.

8. There is no known unpaid claimant or contested claim against the decedent, except as stated in paragraph 7.

9. a. The names and places of residence of any surviving spouse, minor child(ren) and adult dependent* child(ren) of the decedent are as follows:

Age of Name and Relationship	Place of Residence	Minor
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Attach a list marked Exhibit "A" if more space is needed.

*** Note: An adult dependent child is one who is unable to maintain him/herself and is likely to become a public charge.)**

- b. The award allowable to the surviving spouse of a decedent who was an Illinois resident is \$ _____ (\$20,000 plus \$10,000 multiplied by the number of minor children and adult dependent children who resided with the surviving spouse at the time of decedent's death. If any such child(ren) did not reside with the surviving spouse at the time of the decedent's death, so indicate.)
- c. If there is no surviving spouse, the award allowable to minor children and adult dependent children of a decedent who was an Illinois resident is \$ _____ (\$20,000 plus \$10,000 multiplied by the number of minor children and adult dependent children), to be divided among them in equal shares.
10. **Choose either 10(a) or 10(b).**

- a. The decedent left no will. The names, places of residence and relationships of the decedent's heirs, and the portion of the estate to which each heir is entitled under the law where decedent died intestate are as follows:

Name, Relationship, and Place of Residence (*If Minor, also provide age →)	*Age (if Minor)	Portion of Estate
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Attach a list marked Exhibit "B" if more space is needed.

OR

- b. The decedent left a will, which has been filed with the clerk of an appropriate court. A certified copy of the will on file is attached. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the will on file is the decedent's last will and was signed by the decedent and the attesting witnesses as required by law and would be admissible to probate. The names and places of residence of the legatees and the portion of the estate, if any, to which each legatee is entitled are as follows:

Name, Relationship, and Place of Residence (*If Minor, also provide age →)	*Age (if Minor)	Portion of Estate
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Attach a list marked Exhibit "C" if more space is needed.

- c. Affiant is unaware of any dispute or potential conflict as to the heirship or will of the decedent.
- 10.3. My relationship to the decedent or the decedent's estate is as follows: _____.

10.5. I understand that the decedent's estate must be distributed first to satisfy claims against the decedent's estate as set forth in paragraph 7.5 of this affidavit before any distribution is made to any heir or legatee. By signing this affidavit, I agree to indemnify and hold harmless all creditors of the decedent's estate, the decedent's heirs and legatees, and other persons, corporations, or financial institutions relying upon this affidavit who incur any loss because of reliance on this affidavit, up to the amount lost because of any act or omission by me. I further understand that any person, corporation, or financial institution recovering under this indemnification provision shall be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and the expenses of recovery.

- 11. After payment by me from the decedent's estate of all debts and expenses listed in paragraph 7, any remaining property described in paragraph 6 of this affidavit should be distributed as follows:

Name	Specific Sum or Property to be Distributed
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Attach a list marked Exhibit "D" if more space is needed.

The foregoing statement is made under the penalties of perjury *.

Signature of Affiant

Signed and sworn before me on this _____ of _____, _____

Notary Public

*** (Note: A fraudulent statement made under the penalties of perjury is perjury, as defined in Section 32-2 of the Criminal Code of 2012; 720 ILCS 5/32-2.)**

- (c) Appointment of Agent. If safe deposit access is involved or if sale of any personal property is desirable to facilitate distribution pursuant to the small estate affidavit, the affiant under

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the small estate affidavit may in writing appoint one or more persons as the affiant's agent for that purpose. The agent shall have power, without court approval, to gain access to sell, and distribute the property in the manner specified in paragraphs 7.5 and 11 of the affidavit; and the payment, delivery, transfer, access or issuance shall be made or granted to or on the order of the agent. The affiant may appoint himself or herself as the designated representative to exercise the powers and perform the duties of an agent described in this subsection (c).

- (d) **Reliance and Release.** Any person, corporation, or financial institution who acts in good faith reliance on a copy of a document purporting to be a small estate affidavit that is substantially in compliance with subsection (b) of this Section shall be fully protected and released upon payment, delivery, transfer, access or issuance pursuant to such a document to the same extent as if the payment, delivery, transfer, access or issuance had been made or granted to the representative of the estate. Such person, corporation, or financial institution is not required to see to the application or disposition of the property; but each person to whom a payment, delivery, transfer, access or issuance is made or given is answerable therefor to any person having a prior right and is accountable to any representative of the estate.
- (e) Distributions pursuant to an affidavit substantially in the form set forth in subsection (b) of this Section may be made to the affiant, if so specified in paragraph 11, notwithstanding the disclosure of known unpaid debts. The affiant, acting on behalf of the decedent's estate, is obligated to pay all valid claims against the decedent's estate before any distribution is made to any heir or legatee. The affiant signing the small estate affidavit prepared pursuant to subsection (b) of this Section shall indemnify and hold harmless all creditors, heirs, and legatees of the decedent and other persons, corporations, or financial institutions relying upon the affidavit who incur loss because of such reliance. That indemnification shall only be up to the amount lost because of the act or omission of the affiant. Any person, corporation, or financial institution recovering under this subsection (e) shall be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and the expenses of recovery.
- (f) The affiant of a small estate affidavit who is a non-resident of Illinois submits himself or herself to the jurisdiction of Illinois courts for all matters related to the preparation or use of the affidavit. The affidavit shall provide the name, address, and phone number of a person whom the affiant names as his agent for service of process. If no such person is named or if, for any reason, service on the named person cannot be effectuated, the clerk of the circuit court of the county or judicial circuit of which the decedent was a resident at the time of his death shall be the agent for service of process.
- (g) Any action properly taken under this Section, as amended by Public Act 93-877, on or after August 6, 2004 (the effective date of Public Act 93-877) is valid regardless of the date of death of the decedent.
- (h) The changes made by this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly apply to a decedent whose date of death is on or after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly.
- (i) The changes made by this amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly apply to a decedent whose date of death is on or after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly.

Mariyana T. Spyropoulos, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois

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