

How Do I File an Estate?

What is the total value of the assets that need to be transferred?

Probate estate forms are also available at:
<http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Forms/Pages/Estates-and-Trusts.aspx>

Less than \$15,000*

Is there a house or land that is included in the total assets?

Yes. Although you can still use the Petition and Order for Assignment (PC 556), it is strongly recommended that you contact an attorney to assist you in this process to ensure that deed(s) are properly titled.

No. You may choose either of the following options, however most financial institutions require an order to release funds.

[Petition and Order for Assignment \(PC 556\)](#). See directions for required documentation and fees to be submitted to the court. This process will result in a court order assigning assets, and then the file is closed.

[Affidavit for Delivery of Decedent Assets \(PC 598\)](#). This document is notarized, but NOT filed with the Probate Court; therefore no fees are charged and no documents are processed by the court.

More than \$15,000*

A full estate administration is required, with filing made either formally (by petition) or informally (by application). The court has [packets available](#) with forms and brief instructions for informal filing.

If you have questions or if there are complicating factors or disagreement among the parties, **it is strongly recommended that you contact an attorney** to advise and assist you in this process. Numerous documents are necessary and will vary depending upon the specific estate.

The court cannot give legal advice or recommend a specific attorney.

*As adjusted for cost of living. This amount changes each year and \$22,000 is the amount for 2014. See [Small Estate Assignment](#) for amounts for previous years.