

Petition and Order to Open Safe Deposit Box to Locate Will or Burial Deed

These instructions have been prepared by the Leelanau County Probate Court staff to assist you in correctly completing this process. **The Probate Court staff will assist you if you have further questions about procedures; however, staff is prohibited from giving legal advice.** If you do not understand these instructions or are not able to fill out the petition and other forms by yourself, consider contacting an attorney for assistance.

The Court may order the opening of a safe deposit box upon the filing of a Petition and Order to Open Safe Deposit Box to Locate Will or Burial Deed ([PC 551](#)) if:

1. It appears that the Safe Deposit Box may contain the decedent's Last Will and Testament or deed to a burial plot.
2. An interested person files with the Court the Petition and Order to Open Safe Deposit Box to Locate Will and/or Burial Deed (Form PC551). The court cost for the filing of the Petition and Order to Open Safe Deposit Box is \$21.00.
3. An officer or other authorized employee of the financial institution where the box is located is present when the box is opened; and
4. If an alleged Last Will and Testament or deed to a burial plot is found in the box, the person named in the order must deliver the documents to the probate register or deputy register; and
5. Within seven (7) days, the Safe Deposit Certificate and Receipt ([PC 555](#)) must be presented to the Probate Court. This form indicates whether or not a Last Will and Testament and/or deed to a burial plot were found and that no other items were removed from the Safe Deposit Box.

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