



The Probate Timeline

While the probate timeline can be confusing, you can improve your understanding by learning about what impacts and occurs during probate. The time estimates will not apply in every situation since the specifics of the probate process differ with every case/estate. Our probate timeline acts as a reference tool for approximating how long your probate process may take and how long it may be until you can access your inheritance and be in the position to legally liquidate estate's real estate assets. If you are about to be involved in probate, use The Probate Timeline below to inform yourself of the various stages of the probate process.

STEP	DURATION
Prepare and File Petition for Probate	1-2 months
Court hearing on the Petition for Probate	2-3 months
The following are issued: Letter of Administration, Orders for Probate, Duties and Liabilities, Issue Bond (if ordered), and Letters of Testamentary	2-4 months (if not contested)
Notice to Creditors	2-4 months
Notice to Department of Health Services Inventory & Appraisalment	4-8 months
Pay State and Federal Taxes (if necessary)	6-12 months
Allow or Reject Creditor Claims	
Possible Preliminary Distribution	
Notice to Department of Health Services (if deceased received medical)	
Notice to Franchise Tax Board (if heir is out of state)	
Claim of Exemption (if assets transfer to a minor)	6-15 months
Receive Final Tax Letter from State and Federal (if appropriate)	6-18 months
File Petition for Final Distribution and Accounting	8-16 months
Hearing on Petition for final Distribution and Accounting	
Order Approving Final Distribution and Accounting	
Distribution of Assets to Heirs	9-17 months
Final Discharge Order (indicates close of probate case)	9-18 months