

## Personal Property Inventory Guide

### A Step-by-Step Resource for Personal Representatives

This guide is designed to help Michigan Personal Representatives confidently complete the Personal Property Inventory required by the probate court, especially when dealing with everyday household items or property of modest value.

#### What Is the Michigan Personal Property Inventory?

In Michigan probate, the Personal Representative must file an Inventory listing the decedent's personal property and its estimated fair market value as of the date of death. This typically must be filed within 91 days of appointment, unless the court orders otherwise.

- Household furniture and contents
- Vehicles, boats, trailers
- Jewelry, firearms, collectibles
- Bank accounts, cash, refunds owed
- Tools, equipment, or business assets

#### How Michigan Courts Expect You to Value Property

Michigan probate courts expect reasonable, good-faith estimates — not professional appraisals for ordinary items.

- Fair market value means what the item would realistically sell for, not its original cost or sentimental value.
- Online resale comparisons (Facebook Marketplace, eBay sold listings)
- Estate sale or consignment estimates
- Kelley Blue Book or NADA for vehicles
- Appraisals only for unusually valuable items

**Helpful tip:** Michigan courts commonly accept grouped entries such as “Used household furniture and contents” with one combined value

#### When Personal Property Is Not Worth Much

Most estates contain everyday items with little resale value. You are not expected to list every fork, shirt, or lamp individually.

- Group items together at a reasonable value
- Use terms like “used,” “ordinary,” or “household contents”
- Explain that items have minimal resale value.

#### Donating Personal Property in a Michigan Estate

If heirs do not want the items and the estate does not need them to pay debts, donation is often appropriate. Always ensure there are no objections from heirs before donating.

- Take photos before donation
- Obtain a donation receipt if available
- Keep a simple donation log (items and organization)
- List items at date-of-death value, even if later donated

#### Important Reminder

This guide is educational only and not legal or tax advice. When questions arise, consult a Michigan probate attorney or qualified professional.

## Personal Property Inventory Guide

When handling a probate estate, organizing and clearing personal property can feel overwhelming.

Below is a simple, step-by-step approach to make the process more manageable and efficient.

### **Identify and Sell Items of Value**

Start by identifying any items of significant value such as:

- Antiques
- Collectibles
- Jewelry
- Vehicles (ATV's etc..)
- High-end furnishings
- Lawn Equipment / Tools

These items should typically be sold first, as they may contribute to the estate proceeds.

### **Consider an Estate Sale**

If there is a large volume of items or you're unsure of value, consider having an estate sale company walk through the property.

Most companies will provide a consultation and quote at no cost. This can be a helpful way to efficiently liquidate remaining contents.

### **Document Remaining Items for Family**

Once high-value items are addressed, take clear photos of the remaining contents.

Share these with family members and friends to allow them the opportunity to select items of sentimental value.

### **Donate Usable Items**

After selections are made, consider donating any remaining usable items to local charities, thrift stores, or bookstores. This helps minimize waste and can benefit the community.

### **Final Clean-Out (Disposition Services)**

For anything left over, hire a professional clean-out or garbage hauling service to remove remaining items and prepare the property for sale or transfer.

