

Probate

Definitions

Used in Probate Files

CODICIL: An addition to a will, which may change the original by adding, subtracting, qualify, or altering the original provisions in some matter

DEVISEE: A person receiving real property gifted by will

DEVISOR: The maker of a will in which land is gifted

DOWER: The life-estate a woman is entitled to claim when her husband dies. Or 1/3 of the value of all land owned by the husband

HALACHIC LAWS: (Halakhah: Jewish Law) a combination of laws from the Torah, laws instituted by Rabbis, and long-standing customs

INTESTATE: To die without having left a will

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION: Formal instrument of authority and appointment given to an administrator by the court empowering him to enter upon the discharge of his office

LETTERS OF TESTAMENTARY: Same as Letters of Administration but for the executor

MANUMISSION: Giving freedom or liberating a slave from bondage

ORPHANS COURT: In Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania the court that has probate jurisdiction

PRIMOGENITURE: The exclusive right or position of the eldest son, the right from this to inherit the estate of his ancestor

PROBATE: Proof, in particular the process or act of proving a will

SURROGATE COURT: A state court having jurisdiction over matters of probate

TESTATE: A person who has made a will To die leaving a will

WILL: The declaration of a person's wishes pertaining to the disposition of his or her property after deaths

Jewish Terms

ALTER: German/Yiddish for "Older" Firstborn son -Ashkenazi

B'CHOR: Hebrew/Ladino for Firstborn son - Sephardic

B'CKOR: Jewish law a double share is inherited by eldest son

KATUBAH or KETUVA(H): Jewish religious marriage certificate, also a contract outlining wife's shares like a dower

Bibliography and Further Readings

Books

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New Brunswick, Rutgers Univ. Press 1987

Web Sites - Online

Probate Related

Familysearch.org:

Jewish Probate Records. https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Jewish_Probate_Records

Italian Genealogical Group: New York Vital Record Indexes: www.italiengen.org {go to databases}

Jewish Encyclopedia: <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/8114-inheritance>

**** Inheritance ("yerusbah," "nahalah")

JewishGen: <http://www.jewishgen.org>

Jewish Law: www.jlaw.com

Jewish Virtual Library: <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/index.html>

Ketubah: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ketubah>

Pek, Matthew A. Esq., *Inheriting the Crown in Jewish Law: The Struggle for Rabbinic Compensation, Tenure, and
Inheritance Rightrs*. South Carolina Journal of International law and Business, Vol 5 2008:
<http://scholarcommons.sc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1024&context=scjilb>

Travels Through Jewish History: <http://travelsjewishhistory.blogspot.com/> home page.

"*The Magic of Probate Records:*" article URL below written by Laura Leibman, Portland, OR

<http://travelsjewishhistory.blogspot.com/2010/05/magic-of-probate-records.html>

King County Washington Probate Court

Superior Court Clerk's Office: 206.296.9300

Probate before 1996-

Before 1979 may be on microfilm or ECR online

1879 to Present

Call for case number

Some of the microfilm is at the courthouse

Some of the cases are filed in an archive off site

Records are pulled twice a week

Online ECR: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/Clerk/Records/ECROnline.aspx>

Pay for view – cost depends on the case file and date