

Table of Contents

PART I. PROBATE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

CHAPTER 1. THE PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS TRIAL COURT

- § 1:3 Probate and Family Court Department
- § 1:4 Judges
- § 1:6 Places for holding court
- § 1:7 Court rooms, records and indexes
- § 1:8 Rules of the Probate and Family Court
- § 1:11 Appendix of Probate Forms

CHAPTER 4. DECLARATORY JUDGMENTS

- § 4:2 Jurisdiction
- § 4:3 Nature of proceedings

CHAPTER 6. ATTACKING AND REVOKING DECREES

- § 6:4 Sound judicial discretion

CHAPTER 7. ANTENUPTIAL AND POSTNUPTIAL AGREEMENTS

- § 7:1 Antenuptial and postnuptial agreements

CHAPTER 8. DESCENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY

- § 8:3 Surviving spouse's share of property not disposed of by will
- § 8:8 Persons born out of wedlock
- § 8:12 Rights of adopted children

CHAPTER 9. RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES OF HEIRS AND DISTRIBUTEES

- § 9:1 Rights of expectant heirs before death of ancestor
- § 9:3 Possession and control of property
- § 9:6 Actions by heirs and distributees

**CHAPTER 10. SETTLEMENTS,
ADVANCEMENTS, DISCLAIMERS AND
CONVEYANCES**

§ 10:2 Establishment and determination of heirship and right to share
in distribution

CHAPTER 15. PARTNERSHIP ESTATES

§ 15:5 Winding up partnership

CHAPTER 16. PARTITION

§ 16:3 Who may have partition

§ 16:5 Death of part owner during proceedings—Heir or devisee

§ 16:13 Partition by sale or division

**CHAPTER 17. PROBATE TITLES TO
PROPERTY**

§ 17:2 Title by descent and devise

§ 17:6 Tenants in common—Joint tenants and survivorship—Entirety

**CHAPTER 18. COMPENSATION, COSTS,
EXPENSES AND COUNSEL FEES**

§ 18:2 Statutory provisions for counsel fees and expenses

§ 18:3 Factors to be considered in determining reasonableness of
counsel fees

**PART II. PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVES AND
ADMINISTRATORS**

**CHAPTER 19. INITIAL STEPS IN
ADMINISTRATION**

§ 19:10 Powers of personal representatives and administrators before
appointment

§ 19:11 What law governs

**CHAPTER 22. PROBATE OF WILL—
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE**

§ 22:4 Petition for formal and informal probate of a will

**CHAPTER 23. WILL CONTESTS AND
COMPROMISES**

§ 23:1 The will contest

§ 23:3 Who may contest

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 23:4 Grounds for objections
- § 23:12 Trial
- § 23:18 No contest clauses

CHAPTER 26. ASSETS OF THE ESTATE

- § 26:1 Assets—Ownership of property
- § 26:3 Assets—Insurance policies and annuities
- § 26:7 Gifts and other transfers made by decedent
- § 26:8 Property disposed of in fraud of creditors

**CHAPTER 27. COLLECTION AND
MANAGEMENT OF ESTATE**

- § 27:1 Rights and duties of personal representatives and administrators
- § 27:8 Contracts by decedent

**CHAPTER 29. ACTIONS BY AND AGAINST
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND
ADMINISTRATORS**

- § 29:1 Capacity to sue and be sued
- § 29:2 Limitation of actions
- § 29:2.50 Quasi-judicial immunity of personal representative *[New]*
- § 29:5 Actions for causing death

**CHAPTER 30. INTERPRETATION AND
CONSTRUCTION OF WILLS AND
CODICILS**

- § 30:2 Interpretation of wills and codicils
- § 30:8 Legacies—Ademption of specific legacies
- § 30:12 Admissibility of extrinsic evidence

**CHAPTER 31. SALES BY PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVES OR
ADMINISTRATORS**

- § 31:1 Title to property
- § 31:2 Sales by personal representatives and administrators, generally
- § 31:6 Sale of mortgaged property

CHAPTER 32. PAYMENT OF DEBTS

- § 32:2 Debts due to or from the personal representative or administrator
- § 32:7 Short statute of limitations

CHAPTER 33. PAYMENT OF LEGACIES

- § 33:8 Death of legatee before the testator

**CHAPTER 35. ACCOUNTS AND
SETTLEMENTS**

§ 35:2 Failure to render account

§ 35:9 Reopening of allowed accounts

**CHAPTER 36. DEATH, RESIGNATION OR
REMOVAL OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE**

§ 36:5 Procedure for removal and appointment of successor

Table of Laws and Rules

Table of Cases