

Fabulous Fridays

What Factors Decide Who Receives Your Property After You Die

January 27, 2023

Resources

1. Designating Beneficiaries through Contractual Arrangements

MSU Extension MontGuide

[\(PDF Version\)](#) [\(HTML Version-ADA Accessible\)](#) [\[Order Online\]](#)

Focuses on transferring assets through contractual arrangements, such as those commonly found with insurance policies, individual retirement accounts and employee benefit plans.

2. Dying Without a Will in Montana: Who Receives Your Property?

MSU Extension MontGuide

[\(PDF Version\)](#) [\(HTML Version-ADA Accessible\)](#) [\[Order Online\]](#)

Includes legal terms and detailed examples of possible scenarios for distribution of property should a person die before writing a will in Montana.

3. Estate Planning: Getting Started

MSU Extension MontGuide

[\(PDF Version\)](#) [\(HTML Version-ADA Accessible\)](#) [\[Order Online\]](#)

Explains how--and why---to arrange for the future distribution of your property in Montana.

4. [Dying Without a Will in Montana Interactive Website](#)

Who receives your property if you pass away without a written will? Use this website to discover how your property will be distributed under Montana law if you are a Montana resident and if you pass away without a written will (as do 7 out of 10 Americans).

5. Montana Common Law Marriage & Estate Planning

(MSU Extension MontGuide)

[\(PDF Version\)](#) [\(HTML Version-ADA Accessible\)](#) [\[Order Online\]](#)

Explores Montana common law marriages from an estate planning perspective. Topics include: The definition of common law marriage, what establishes a common law marriage, what documentation is necessary for a common law marriage, and what amount the surviving spouse of a common law marriage inherits.

- a. [Affidavit of Common Law Marriage Form](#) (Montana Judicial Branch) (PDF)
- b. [Declaration of Marriage Form](#) (Montana Department of Health and Human Services) (PDF)

6. **Property Ownership**

MSU Extension MontGuide

([PDF Version](#)) ([HTML Version-ADA Accessible](#)) [[Order Online](#)]

Describes the three main forms of property ownership in Montana, plus real-life examples of estate settlement for each.

For further information, visit the **Estate Planning website** at www.montana.edu/estateplanning.

This website provides current information about estate planning for Montanans who are interested in learning by attending webinars, in-person workshops, viewing MSU Extension MontGuides and other bulletins, and other information.