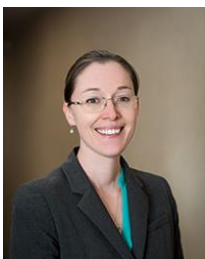


Ask a KKC Attorney



Attorney Allison Poirier

Question:

What happens if a beneficiary dies before an estate is settled?

Answer:

If a beneficiary of an estate dies prior to the estate being settled, the deceased beneficiary's estate then becomes entitled to receive the deceased beneficiary's share. Once the deceased beneficiary's estate receives the inheritance, the inheritance will then pass to the deceased beneficiary's heirs.

For example, mom dies and leaves everything to son. While mom's estate is being probated, son dies. Once mom's estate is settled, all mom's assets are distributed to the Executor of son's estate. Son's estate is then distributed as son directs in his Will, or if son has no Will, son's estate passes to son's next of kin.

Allison Poirier is an associate at Kahan Kerensky Capossela, LLP, a law firm with offices in Vernon and Storrs. She focuses her practice on probate, estate planning, and real estate and can be reached at 860-812-1719 or apoirier@kkc-law.com.