

A Maryland Judiciary Production

Title: Part 1 Before You Open the Estate - Audition Copy

Welcome. This is a video series for individuals who are preparing to open an estate. If the estate is not opened yet, but you expect to be appointed the personal representative, this video series is for you. In

In this video we will discuss:

Locating the Will

Dealing with the bank accounts of the person who passed

Paying for the funeral

Getting the death certificate

And communicating with heirs

Before we begin, I want to take a minute to acknowledge that this is a hard time. You've experienced a loss and handling an estate can feel overwhelming. It can be difficult to navigate the legal procedures when you're grieving. I am here to help. I will guide you through the basic steps you will need to take in preparing to open an estate. If you need help dealing with your loss, please reach out to someone you trust. We all need support.

You may be wondering what a personal representative is. A personal representative, sometimes called an executor, is someone who was appointed to handle the legal affairs of the decedent's estate. After the personal representative is appointed, they will receive documents from the Register of Wills called Letters of Administration. These documents give the personal representative the authority to handle the estate. We will jump into the steps you need to take to open an estate in Pt. 2 of this series. I hope this introduction to our video series on opening an estate has been helpful. Thanks for watching.