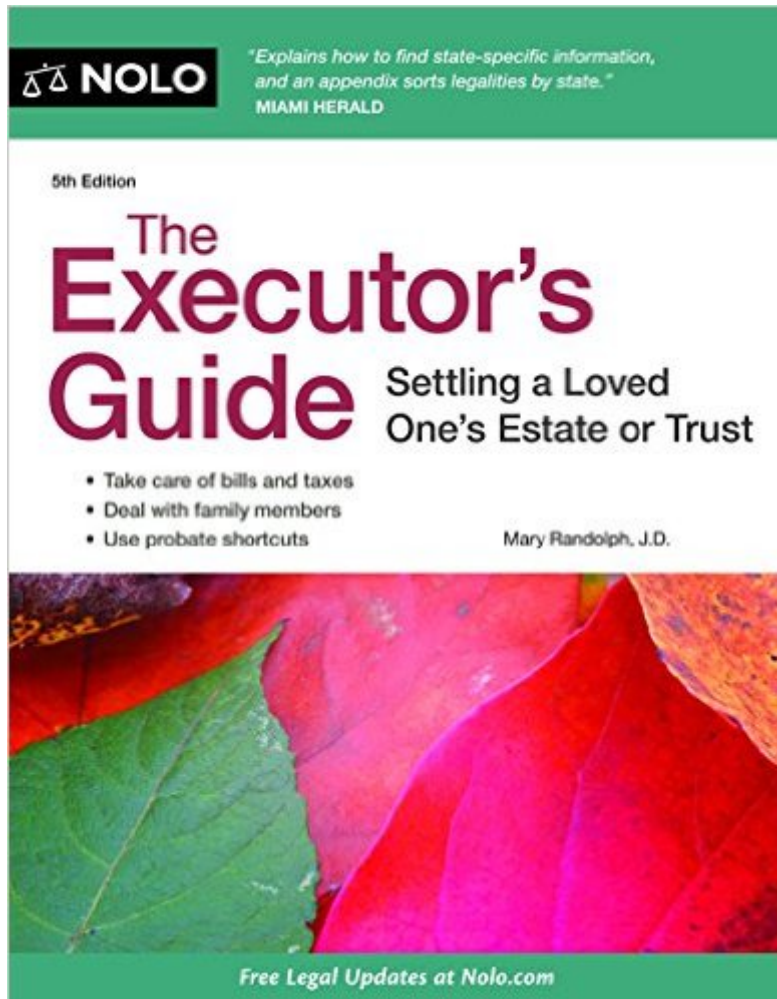


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# The Executor's Guide: Settling A Loved One's Estate Or Trust



## Synopsis

Settling an estate can be like moving through a maze -- let *The Executor's Guide* lead the way. If you're faced with wrapping up the affairs of a loved one who has died, you may feel overwhelmed by all the work ahead -- especially when you're grieving. But with the right legal and practical information, you can do it. *The Executor's Guide* will help you get organized and make progress one step at a time, by assisting you in navigating an unfamiliar land of legal procedures and terminology. It explains how to: prepare for the job of executor or trustee take your first steps claim life insurance, Social Security and other benefits make sense of a will what to do if there is no will determine whether probate is necessary care for children and their property file taxes deal with family members handle trusts look up your state's laws work with lawyers, appraisers, accountants and other experts This edition contains updated tables outlining key points of each state's laws, the latest information on estate taxes and worksheets that help you stay organized and on track.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It hard enough when your parent unexpectedly dies and you discover you are the executor of the estate. There are so many questions and so little time. This book is a godsend. It covers everything you need to know from the moment your loved one passes. It describes step by step, in plain english fashion, what needs to be done in the first week, the first month, and in the future. Everything from death certificates, to funeral arrangements, to claiming life insurance, and, of course, dealing with the estate. It's all in this book. It is your one-stop resource for unbiased, easy to

understand, how-to information. This is THE book to have even if you are not an executor. It will help your entire family. It answers so many questions and takes the mystery out of settling an estate. It's like having an estate attorney in the family. It has helped my family tremendously. Books from Nolo Press have always been easy to understand and use. This book is no exception and continues their fine tradition of making legal processes accessible to ordinary folks like you and me.

An excellent guide for those of us struggling to manipulate the legal maze of probate. After having read the book, I was able to avoid asking as many questions of an attorney resulting in savings to the estate of hundreds of dollars. More importantly, I was able to deal with heirs and family members in a fair and intelligent manner. No one has been able to complain of things not being explained clearly or of the process moving too slowly. I would recommend the book to anyone who is about to administer an estate. It is a great tool for an heir or family member who simply wants to be better informed.

This book does a fine job of providing a basic overview of all steps of the probate process and for settling a trust. It is well organized, easy to read, and provides good sources of additional information. However, it does not provide advice on how to handle semi-complex situations that often arise during probate or while managing a trust. While very complex questions of law should be left to professionals and not hastily discussed in a do-it-yourself book, some treatment should have been given to such things as how to deal with banks and other holders of property who do not recognize the authority of the trustee or executor or what to do to settle disputes with an attorney-in-fact under a durable power of attorney or between co-trustees. I purchased this book because I was looking for a good guide for a trustee who was managing a living trust for a trustor who was declared incompetent. This is an increasingly common situation and the book completely ignores it, instead only discussing trusts in the context settling the trust or a deceased trustor-- as the title of the book suggests. This book is a great starting point, but if the estate or trust you are settling is not perfectly planned and drafted, you will likely still need the help of a professional. Despite the shortcomings, I am yet to find a better guide. I would give it 3.5 stars if I could.

Buy this book before you need it. It helps with the tasks to be done, how to prioritize them, and how to handle disputes among family members, as well. References state laws and online resources, too. Very enlightening.

This book is an invaluable guide for the non-lawyer facing the death of a relative. It is well organized and is written in simple terms, without legal jargon. It is excellent as a checklist for things that need to be done.

This book is what I anticipated it would be, a good basic book with generic information. While it didn't provide me with any information I didn't already know, it did reinforce some of my knowledge. I would recommend this book for anyone who finds they don't know where to begin.

I discovered this book in our city library, and decided to purchase it as I felt that it would be very useful. It covered most of the areas of information an Executor or Trustee would want to know. My neighbor also read the book and some of the subject areas made her decide to go back to an attorney with more questions concerning her current Trust. I would highly recommend this book for individuals who may become Executors or Trustees. It covered information in a simplistic manner in lieu of using lawyer language. It also covers tax ramifications but is not the basic goal of this helpful publication.

When my mother-in-law passed away, my husband was named executor of her estate. Because he is not an attorney or financial planner, I purchased some books on the subject. We've found this book to be most helpful and easy-to-follow.

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