

TITLE 15  
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE

CHAPTER 3  
PROBATE OF WILLS AND ADMINISTRATION

PART 1.  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

15-3-101. DEVOLUTION OF ESTATE AT DEATH -- RESTRICTIONS. The power of a person to leave property by will, and the rights of creditors, devisees, and heirs to his property are subject to the restrictions and limitations contained in this code to facilitate the prompt settlement of estates. Upon the death of a person, his separate property devolves to the persons to whom it is devised by his last will, or to those indicated as substitutes for them in cases involving lapse, renunciation or other circumstances affecting the devolution of testate estates, or in the absence of testamentary disposition to his heirs, or to those indicated as substitutes for them in cases involving renunciation or other circumstances affecting the devolution of intestate estates, and upon the death of a husband or wife, the decedent's share of their community property devolves to the persons to whom it is devised by his last will, or in the absence of testamentary disposition, to the surviving spouse, but all of their community property which is under the management and control of the decedent is subject to his debts and administration, and that portion of their community property which is not under the management and control of the decedent but which is necessary to carry out the provisions of his will is subject to administration; but the devolution of all the above described property is subject to rights to homestead allowance, exempt property, to renunciation to rights of creditors, elective share of the surviving spouse and to administration.

[15-3-101, added 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 2014, ch. 134, sec. 1, p. 369.]

15-3-102. NECESSITY OF ORDER OF PROBATE FOR WILL. Except as provided in section [15-3-1201](#) of this code, to be effective to prove the transfer of any property or to nominate an executor, a will must be declared to be valid by an order of informal probate by the registrar, or an adjudication of probate by the court, except that a duly executed and unrevoked will which has not been probated may be admitted as evidence of a devise if (1) no court proceeding concerning the succession or administration of the estate has occurred, and (2) either the devisee or his successors and assigns possessed the property devised in accordance with the provisions of the will, or the property devised was not possessed or claimed by anyone by virtue of the decedent's title during the time period for testacy proceedings.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-102, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-103. NECESSITY OF APPOINTMENT FOR ADMINISTRATION. Except as otherwise provided in chapter 4 of this code, to acquire the powers and undertake the duties and liabilities of a personal representative of a decedent, a person must be appointed by order of the court or registrar, qualify and be issued letters. Administration of an estate is commenced by the issuance of letters.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-103, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-104. CLAIMS AGAINST DECEDENT -- NECESSITY OF ADMINISTRATION. No proceeding to enforce a claim against the estate of a decedent or his successors may be revived or commenced before the appointment of a personal representative. After the appointment and until distribution, all proceedings and actions to enforce a claim against the estate are governed by the procedure prescribed by this chapter. After distribution a creditor whose claim has not been barred may recover from the distributees as provided in section [15-3-1004](#) of this code or from a former personal representative individually liable as provided in section [15-3-1005](#) of this code. This section has no application to a proceeding by a secured creditor of the decedent to enforce his right to his security except as to any deficiency judgment which might be sought therein.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-104, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-105. PROCEEDINGS AFFECTING DEVOLUTION AND ADMINISTRATION -- JURISDICTION OF SUBJECT MATTER. Persons interested in decedents' estates may apply to the registrar for determination in the informal proceedings provided in this chapter, and may petition the court for orders in formal proceedings within the court's jurisdiction including but not limited to those described in this chapter. The court has exclusive jurisdiction of formal proceedings to determine how decedents' estates subject to the laws of this state are to be administered, expended and distributed.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-105, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-106. CIVIL LITIGATION -- NOTICE. Subject to general rules concerning the proper location of civil litigation and jurisdiction of persons, the court may herein determine any other controversy concerning a succession or to which an estate, through a personal representative, may be a party. Persons notified are bound though less than all interested persons may have been given notice.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-106, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-107. SCOPE OF PROCEEDINGS -- PROCEEDINGS INDEPENDENT -- EXCEPTION. Unless supervised administration as described in Part 5, chapter 3, of this code is involved, (1) each proceeding before the court or registrar is independent of any other proceeding involving the same estate; (2) petitions for formal orders of the court may combine various requests for relief in a single proceeding if the orders sought may be finally granted without delay. Except as required for proceedings which are particularly described by other sections of this chapter, no petition is defective because it fails to embrace all matters which might then be the subject of a final order; (3) proceedings for probate of wills or adjudications of no will may be combined with proceedings for appointment of personal representatives; and (4) a proceeding for appointment of a personal representative is concluded by an order making or declining the appointment.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-107, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-108. PROBATE -- TESTACY AND APPOINTMENT PROCEEDINGS -- ULTIMATE TIME LIMIT. No informal probate or appointment proceeding or formal testacy or appointment proceeding, other than a proceeding to probate a will previously probated at the testator's domicile and appointment proceedings relating to an estate in which there has been a prior appointment or proceedings under section [15-3-1201](#), Idaho Code, or section [15-3-1205](#), Idaho Code, may be commenced more than three (3) years after the decedent's death, except:

(1) If a previous proceeding was dismissed because of doubt about the fact of the decedent's death, appropriate probate, appointment or testacy proceedings may be maintained at any time thereafter upon a finding that the decedent's death occurred prior to the initiation of the previous proceeding and the applicant or petitioner has not delayed unduly in initiating the subsequent proceeding;

(2) Appropriate probate, appointment or testacy proceedings may be maintained in relation to the estate of an absent, disappeared or missing person for whose estate a conservator has been appointed, at any time within three (3) years after the conservator becomes able to establish the death of the protected person; and

(3) A proceeding to contest an informally probated will and to secure appointment of the person with legal priority for appointment in the event the contest is successful, may be commenced within the later of twelve (12) months from the informal probate or three (3) years from the decedent's death.

These limitations do not apply to proceedings to construe probated wills or determine heirs of an intestate or to proceedings under section [15-3-1201](#), Idaho Code, or section [15-3-1205](#), Idaho Code. In cases under subsection (1) or (2) of this section, the date on which a testacy or appointment proceeding is properly commenced shall be deemed to be the date of the decedent's death for purposes of other limitations provisions of this code which relate to the date of death.

[15-3-108, added 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 2014, ch. 264, sec. 1, p. 659.]

15-3-109. STATUTES OF LIMITATION ON DECEDENT'S CAUSE OF ACTION. No statute of limitation running on a cause of action belonging to a decedent which had not been barred as of the date of his death, shall apply to bar a cause of action surviving the decedent's death sooner than four (4) months after death. A cause of action which, but for this section, would have been barred less than four (4) months after death, is barred after four (4) months unless tolled.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-109, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-111. JOINT PROBATE ON DEATH OF SURVIVOR OF MARRIAGE DISSOLVED BY DEATH. In cases in which a marital community has been dissolved by the death of either spouse at any time, the survivor was then entitled to all of the property of the decedent by will, law, or both, and the survivor died before any proceeding had been commenced for the probate of the estate of the spouse whose death occurred first, the estates of both decedents may be joined for probate in a single proceeding in any court having jurisdiction of the estate of the spouse whose death occurred last. The three (3) year provision of section [15-3-108](#), Idaho Code, applies only to the death of the spouse whose

death occurred last. The initial application or petition filed in any such joint proceeding shall contain a statement of the facts upon which such joint proceeding is based, in addition to all other statements required by this code to be made therein.

[15-3-111, added 1973, ch. 26, sec. 1, p. 50; am. 1995, ch. 168, sec. 1, p. 651.]

#### PART 2.

#### VENUE FOR PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION -- PRIORITY TO ADMINISTER -- DEMAND FOR NOTICE

15-3-201. VENUE FOR FIRST AND SUBSEQUENT ESTATE PROCEEDINGS -- LOCATION OF PROPERTY. (a) Venue for the first informal or formal testacy or appointment proceedings after a decedent's death is:

(1) In the county where the decedent had his domicile at the time of his death; or

(2) If the decedent was not domiciled in this state, in any county where property of the decedent was located at the time of his death.

(b) Venue for all subsequent proceedings within the exclusive jurisdiction of the court is in the place where the initial proceeding occurred, unless the initial proceeding has been transferred as provided in section [15-1-303](#) of this code or subsection (c) of this section.

(c) If the first proceeding was informal, on application of an interested person and after notice to the proponent in the first proceeding, the court, upon finding that venue is elsewhere, may transfer the proceeding and the file to the other court.

(d) For the purpose of aiding determinations concerning location of assets which may be relevant in cases involving nondomiciliaries, a debt, other than one evidenced by investment or commercial paper or other instrument in favor of a nondomiciliary, is located where the debtor resides or, if the debtor is a person other than an individual, at the place where it has its principal office. Commercial paper, investment paper and other instruments are located where the instrument is. An interest in property held in trust is located where the trustee may be sued.

[(15-3-201) added 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 2009, ch. 11, sec. 4, p. 15.]

15-3-202. APPOINTMENT OR TESTACY PROCEEDINGS -- CONFLICTING CLAIM OF DOMICILE IN ANOTHER STATE. If conflicting claims as to the domicile of a decedent are made in a formal testacy or appointment proceeding commenced in this state, and in a testacy or appointment proceeding after notice pending at the same time in another state, the court of this state must stay, dismiss, or permit suitable amendment in, the proceeding here unless it is determined that the local proceeding was commenced before the proceeding elsewhere. The determination of domicile in the proceeding first commenced must be accepted as determinative in the proceeding in this state.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-202, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-203. PRIORITY AMONG PERSONS SEEKING APPOINTMENT AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE. (a) Whether the proceedings are formal or informal, persons who are not disqualified have priority for appointment in the following order:

- (1) the person with priority as determined by a probated will including a person nominated by a power conferred in a will;
- (2) the surviving spouse of the decedent who is a devisee of the decedent;
- (3) other devisees of the decedent;
- (4) the surviving spouse of the decedent;
- (5) other heirs of the decedent;
- (6) forty-five (45) days after the death of the decedent, any creditor;
- (7) if a petition for appointment of a personal representative has been filed and sixty (60) days have elapsed during which no consent to act has been filed by any proper person, the public administrator shall act as personal representative unless and until a proper person consents to act.

(b) An objection to an appointment can be made only in formal proceedings. In case of objection the priorities stated in subsection (a) of this section apply except that

- (1) if the estate appears to be more than adequate to meet exemptions and costs of administration but inadequate to discharge anticipated unsecured claims, the court, on petition of creditors, may appoint any qualified person;
- (2) in case of objection to appointment of a person other than one whose priority is determined by will by an heir or devisee appearing to have a substantial interest in the estate, the court may appoint a person who is acceptable to heirs and devisees whose interests in the estate appear to be worth in total more than half of the probable distributable value, or, in default of this accord any suitable person.

(c) A person entitled to letters under (2) through (5) of subsection (a) of this section may nominate a qualified person to act as personal representative. Any person aged eighteen (18) and over may renounce his right to an appointment by appropriate writing filed with the court. When two (2) or more persons share a priority, those of them who do not renounce must concur in nominating another to act for them, or in applying for appointment.

(d) Conservators of the estates of protected persons, or if there is no conservator, any guardian except a guardian ad litem of a minor or incapacitated person, may exercise the same right to nominate, to object to another's appointment, or to participate in determining the preference of a majority in interest of the heirs and devisees that the protected person or ward would have if qualified for appointment.

(e) Appointment of one who does not have priority, including priority resulting from renunciation or nomination determined pursuant to this section, may be made only in formal proceedings. Before appointing one without priority, the court must determine that those having priority, although given notice of the proceedings, have failed to request appointment or to nominate another for appointment, and that administration is necessary.

(f) No person is qualified to serve as a personal representative who is:

- (1) under the age of eighteen (18);
- (2) a person whom the court finds unsuitable in formal proceedings.

(g) A personal representative appointed by a court of the decedent's domicile has priority over all other persons except where the decedent's will nominates different persons to be personal representative in this state and in the state of domicile. The domiciliary personal representative may nominate another, who shall have the same priority as the domiciliary personal representative.

(h) This section governs priority for appointment of a successor personal representative but does not apply to the selection of a special administrator.

(i) A married woman shall have the right to serve as personal representative.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-203, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1972, ch. 201, sec. 8, p. 510.]

15-3-204. DEMAND FOR NOTICE OF ORDER OR FILING CONCERNING DECEDENT'S ESTATE. Any person desiring notice of any order or filing pertaining to a decedent's estate in which he has a financial or property interest, may file a demand for notice with the court at any time after the death of the decedent stating the name of the decedent, the nature of his interest in the estate, and the demandant's address or that of his attorney. The clerk shall mail a copy of the demand to the personal representative if one has been appointed. After filing of a demand, no order or filing to which the demand relates shall be made or accepted without notice as prescribed in section [15-1-401](#) of this code to the demandant or his attorney. The validity of an order which is issued or filing which is accepted without compliance with this requirement shall not be affected by the error, but the petitioner receiving the order or the person making the filing may be liable for any damage caused by the absence of notice. The requirement of notice arising from a demand under this provision may be waived in writing by the demandant and shall cease upon the termination of his interest in the estate.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-204, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

### PART 3.

#### INFORMAL PROBATE AND APPOINTMENT PROCEEDINGS

15-3-301. INFORMAL PROBATE OR APPOINTMENT PROCEEDINGS -- APPLICATION -- CONTENTS. Applications for informal probate, informal statement of intestacy where the estate is community and there is a surviving spouse, or informal appointment shall be directed to the registrar, and verified by the applicant to be accurate and complete to the best of his knowledge and belief as to the following information:

(a) Every application for informal probate of a will, informal statement of intestacy where the estate is community and there is a surviving spouse, or for informal appointment of a personal representative, other than a special, ancillary or successor representative, shall contain the following:

- (1) A statement of the interest of the applicant;
- (2) The name, and date of death of the decedent, his age, and the county and state of his domicile at the time of death, and the names and addresses of the spouse, children, heirs and devisees and the ages of any who are minors so far as known or ascertainable with reasonable diligence by the applicant;
- (3) If the decedent was not domiciled in the state at the time of his death, a statement showing venue;
- (4) A statement identifying and indicating the address of any personal representative of the decedent appointed in this state or elsewhere whose appointment has not been terminated;

(5) A statement indicating whether the applicant has received a demand for notice, or is aware of any demand for notice of any probate or appointment proceeding concerning the decedent that may have been filed in this state or elsewhere;

(6) If the application is for an informal statement of intestacy of a community estate where there is a surviving spouse, an affidavit of the surviving spouse or someone acting on behalf of the surviving spouse that there is no will, that the decedent's estate consists solely of community property of the decedent and surviving spouse, that he or she is the surviving spouse, and a request for a statement that there is no will, that all assets are community and that the surviving spouse is the sole heir;

(7) That the time limit for informal probate or appointment as provided in this article has not expired either because three (3) years or less have passed since the decedent's death, or, if more than three (3) years from death have passed, that circumstances as described by section [15-3-108](#) of this code authorizing tardy probate appointment have occurred.

(b) An application for informal probate of a will shall state the following in addition to the statements required by subsection (a) of this section:

(1) That the original of the decedent's last will is in the possession of the court, or accompanies the application, or that a certified copy of a will probated in another jurisdiction accompanies the application;

(2) That the applicant, to the best of his knowledge, believes the will to have been validly executed;

(3) That after the exercise of reasonable diligence, the applicant is unaware of any instrument revoking the will, and that the applicant believes that the instrument which is the subject of the application is the decedent's last will.

(c) An application for informal appointment of a personal representative to administer an estate under a will shall describe the will by date of execution and state the time and place of probate or the pending application or petition for probate. The application for appointment shall adopt the statements in the application or petition for probate and state the name, address and priority for appointment of the person whose appointment is sought.

(d) An application for informal appointment of an administrator in intestacy shall state in addition to the statements required by subsection (a) of this section:

(1) That after the exercise of reasonable diligence, the applicant is unaware of any unrevoked testamentary instrument relating to property having a situs in this state under section [15-1-301](#) of this code, or, a statement why any such instrument of which he may be aware is not being probated;

(2) The priority of the person whose appointment is sought and the names of any other persons having a prior or equal right to the appointment under section [15-3-203](#) of this code.

(e) An application for appointment of a personal representative to succeed a personal representative appointed under a different testacy status shall refer to the order in the most recent testacy proceeding, state the name and address of the person whose appointment is sought and of the per-

son whose appointment will be terminated if the application is granted, and describe the priority of the applicant.

(f) An application for appointment of a personal representative to succeed a personal representative who has tendered a resignation as provided in subsection (c) of section [15-3-610](#) of this code, or whose appointment has been terminated by death or removal, shall adopt the statements in the application or petition which led to the appointment of the person being succeeded except as specifically changed or corrected, state the name and address of the person who seeks appointment as successor, and describe the priority of the applicant.

(g) By verifying an application for informal probate, or informal appointment, the applicant submits personally to the jurisdiction of the court in any proceeding for relief from fraud relating to the application, or for perjury, that may be instituted against him.

(h) Any statement entered upon an application for informal statement of intestacy where the estate is community and there is a surviving spouse shall contain a statement of heirship setting out the heirs of the decedent and shall have the same effect as entry of a statement of informal probate of a will and be subject to the limitation periods set out in section [15-3-108](#), Idaho Code, notwithstanding the exception provided in that section for determining heirs of an intestate.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-301, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1971, ch. 126, sec. 1, p. 487; am. 1978, ch. 350, sec. 10, p. 919; am. 1995, ch. 166, sec. 1, p. 648.]

15-3-302. INFORMAL PROBATE -- DUTY OF REGISTRAR -- EFFECT OF INFORMAL PROBATE. Upon receipt of an application requesting informal probate of a will or informal statement of intestacy, the registrar, upon making the findings required by section [15-3-303](#) of this chapter shall issue a written statement of informal probate if at least five (5) days have elapsed since the decedent's death. Informal probate is conclusive as to all persons until superseded by an order in a formal testacy proceeding. No defect in the application or procedure relating thereto which leads to informal probate of a will renders the probate void.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-302, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1971, ch. 126, sec. 1, p. 487; am. 1973, ch. 167, sec. 8, p. 319.]

15-3-303. INFORMAL PROBATE -- PROOF AND FINDINGS REQUIRED. (a) In an informal proceeding for original probate of a will or informal statement of intestacy where the estate is community and there is a surviving spouse, the registrar shall determine whether:

- (1) The application is complete;
- (2) The applicant has made oath or affirmation that the statements contained in the application are true to the best of his knowledge and belief;
- (3) The applicant appears from the application to be an interested person as defined in subsection (25) of section [15-1-201](#), Idaho Code;
- (4) On the basis of the statements in the application, venue is proper;
- (5) An original, duly executed and apparently unrevoked will is in the registrar's possession;
- (6) Any notice required by section [15-3-204](#), Idaho Code, has been given and that the application is not within section [15-3-304](#), Idaho Code;



(7) It appears from the application that the time limit for original probate has not expired; and

(8) If the application is for a statement of intestacy of a community estate with a surviving spouse, on the basis of statements in the application and affidavit: 1. the decedent left no will, 2. the decedent's estate consists solely of community property of the decedent and the surviving spouse, and 3. the decedent left a surviving spouse. In addition to this, the registrar shall set out the name of the surviving spouse.

(b) The application shall be denied if it indicates that a personal representative has been appointed in another county of this state or, except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, if it appears that this or another will of the decedent has been the subject of a previous probate order.

(c) A will which appears to have the required signatures and which contains an attestation clause showing that requirements of execution under section [15-2-502](#), [15-2-503](#) or [15-2-506](#), Idaho Code, have been met shall be probated without further proof. In other cases, the registrar may assume execution if the will appears to have been properly executed, or he may accept a sworn statement or affidavit of any person having knowledge of the circumstances of execution, whether or not the person was a witness to the will.

(d) Informal probate of a will that has been previously probated elsewhere may be granted at any time upon written application by any interested person, together with deposit of an authenticated copy of the will and of the statement probating it from the office or court where it was first probated.

(e) A will from a place that does not provide for probate of a will after death, and that is not eligible for probate under subsection (a) of this section, may be probated in this state upon receipt by the registrar of a duly authenticated copy of the will and a duly authenticated certificate of its legal custodian that the copy filed is a true copy and that the will has become operative under the law of the other place.

[15-3-303, added 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1971, ch. 126, sec. 1, p. 487; am. 1973, ch. 167, sec. 19, p. 319; am. 2020, ch. 82, sec. 3, p. 176.]

15-3-303A. NOTICE REQUIRED. Upon issuance of a statement of informal probate if no letters are issued to a personal representative or determination of heirship of community property, the applicant must give notice to all heirs and devisees of the admission of the will to probate or the determination of heirship of community property. This information shall be sent by ordinary mail to each of the heirs and devisees whose address is reasonably available to the applicant. The applicant shall be responsible to any heir or devisee damaged by failure of the applicant to give proper notice under this section.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-303A, as added by 1972, ch. 201, sec. 9, p. 510; am. 1973, ch. 167, sec. 9, p. 319.]

15-3-304. INFORMAL PROBATE -- UNAVAILABLE IN CERTAIN CASES. Applications for informal probate which relate to one (1) or more of a known series of testamentary instruments (other than a will and one (1) or more codicils thereto), the latest of which does not expressly revoke the earlier, shall be declined.

[15-3-304, added 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 2015, ch. 76, sec. 1, p. 198.]

15-3-305. INFORMAL PROBATE -- REGISTRAR NOT SATISFIED. If the registrar is not satisfied that a will is entitled to be probated in informal proceedings because of failure to meet the requirements of sections [15-3-303](#) and [15-3-304](#) of this Part or any other reason, he may decline the application. A declination of informal probate is not an adjudication and does not preclude formal probate proceedings.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-305, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-306. INFORMAL PROBATE -- NOTICE REQUIREMENTS. The moving party must give notice as described by section [15-1-401](#) of this code of his application for informal probate (1) to any person demanding it pursuant to section [15-3-204](#) of this code; and (2) to any personal representative of the decedent whose appointment has not been terminated. No other notice of informal probate is required.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-306, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-307. INFORMAL APPOINTMENT PROCEEDINGS -- DELAY IN ORDER -- DUTY OF REGISTRAR -- EFFECT OF APPOINTMENT. (a) Upon receipt of an application for informal appointment of a personal representative other than a special administrator as provided in section [15-3-614](#) of this code, if at least one hundred twenty (120) hours have elapsed since the decedent's death, the registrar, after making the findings required by section [15-3-308](#) of this chapter, shall appoint the applicant subject to qualification and acceptance; provided, that if the decedent was a nonresident, the registrar shall delay the order of appointment until thirty (30) days have elapsed since death unless the personal representative appointed at the decedent's domicile is the applicant, or unless the decedent's will directs that his estate be subject to the laws of this state.

(b) The status of personal representative and the powers and duties pertaining to the office are fully established by informal appointment. An appointment, and the office of personal representative created thereby, is subject to termination as provided in sections [15-3-608](#) through [15-3-612](#) of this code, but is not subject to retroactive vacation.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-307, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-308. INFORMAL APPOINTMENT PROCEEDINGS -- PROOF AND FINDINGS REQUIRED. (a) In informal appointment proceedings, the registrar must determine whether:

- (1) The application for informal appointment of a personal representative is complete;
- (2) The applicant has made oath or affirmation that the statements contained in the application are true to the best of his knowledge and belief;
- (3) The applicant appears from the application to be an interested person as defined in subsection (25) of section [15-1-201](#), Idaho Code;
- (4) On the basis of the statements in the application, venue is proper;

(5) Any will to which the requested appointment relates has been formally or informally probated; but this requirement does not apply to the appointment of a special administrator;

(6) Any notice required by section [15-3-204](#), Idaho Code, has been given;

(7) From the statements in the application, the person whose appointment is sought has priority entitling him to the appointment.

(b) Unless section [15-3-612](#), Idaho Code, controls, the application must be denied if it indicates that a personal representative who has not filed a written statement of resignation as provided in subsection (c) of section [15-3-610](#), Idaho Code, has been appointed in this or another county of this state, that (unless the applicant is the domiciliary personal representative or his nominee) the decedent was not domiciled in this state, and that a personal representative whose appointment has not been terminated has been appointed by a court in the state of domicile, or that other requirements of this section have not been met.

[15-3-308, added 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1973, ch. 167, sec. 20, p. 319; am. 2020, ch. 82, sec. 4, p. 177.]

15-3-309. INFORMAL APPOINTMENT PROCEEDINGS -- REGISTRAR NOT SATISFIED. If the registrar is not satisfied that a requested informal appointment of a personal representative should be made because of failure to meet the requirements of sections [15-3-307](#) and [15-3-308](#) of this Part, or for any other reason, he may decline the application. A declination of informal appointment is not an adjudication and does not preclude appointment in formal proceedings.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-309, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-310. INFORMAL APPOINTMENT PROCEEDINGS -- NOTICE REQUIREMENTS. The moving party must give notice as described by section [15-1-401](#) of this code of his intention to seek an appointment informally: (1) to any person demanding it pursuant to section [15-3-204](#) of this code; and (2) to any person having a prior or equal right to appointment not waived in writing and filed with the court. No other notice of an informal appointment proceeding is required.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-310, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-311. INFORMAL APPOINTMENT UNAVAILABLE IN CERTAIN CASES. If an application for informal appointment indicates the existence of a possible unrevoked testamentary instrument which may relate to property subject to the laws of this state, and which is not filed for probate in this court, the registrar shall decline the application.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-311, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

#### PART 4.

#### FORMAL TESTACY AND APPOINTMENT PROCEEDINGS

15-3-401. FORMAL TESTACY PROCEEDINGS -- NATURE -- WHEN COMMENCED. A formal testacy proceeding is litigation to determine whether a decedent left a valid will. A formal testacy proceeding may be commenced by an interested

person filing a petition as described in subsection (a) of section [15-3-402](#) of this Part in which he requests that the court, after notice and hearing, enter an order probating a will, or a petition to set aside an informal probate of a will or to prevent informal probate of a will which is the subject of a pending application, or to set aside a determination that the entire estate is community and there is a surviving spouse, or a petition in accordance with subsection (c) of section [15-3-402](#) of this Part for an order that the decedent died intestate.

A petition may seek formal probate of a will without regard to whether the same or a conflicting will has been informally probated. A formal testacy proceeding may, but need not, involve a request for appointment of a personal representative.

During the pendency of a formal testacy proceeding, the registrar shall not act upon any application for informal probate of any will of the decedent or any application for informal appointment of a personal representative of the decedent.

Unless a petition in a formal testacy proceeding also requests confirmation of the previous informal appointment, a previously appointed personal representative, after receipt of notice of the commencement of a formal probate proceeding, must refrain from exercising his power to make any further distribution of the estate during the pendency of the formal proceeding. A petitioner who seeks the appointment of a different personal representative in a formal proceeding also may request an order restraining the acting personal representative from exercising any of the powers of his office and requesting the appointment of a special administrator. In the absence of a request, or if the request is denied, the commencement of a formal proceeding has no effect on the powers and duties of a previously appointed personal representative other than those relating to distribution.

By submitting a petition for formal probate the petitioner subjects himself to jurisdiction of the court in which such instrument is filed. Any action by a person damaged by him, including a creditor of the estate, shall be limited in amount to the assets of the estate less the obligations of the estate paid by him. Notice of any proceedings sought to be maintained against the petitioner pursuant to his submission to jurisdiction shall be delivered to him or mailed to him by ordinary first class mail at his address as it is known to the petitioner, or is listed on any application or petition in probate proceedings previously instituted in the court where the proceeding is brought.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-401, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1972, ch. 201, sec. 11, p. 510.]

15-3-402. FORMAL TESTACY OR APPOINTMENT PROCEEDINGS -- PETITION -- CONTENTS. (a) Petitions for formal probate of a will, or for adjudication of intestacy with or without request for appointment of a personal representative, must be directed to the court, request a judicial order after notice and hearing and contain further statements as indicated in this section. A petition for formal probate of a will:

- (1) requests an order as to the testacy of the decedent in relation to a particular instrument which may or may not have been informally probated and determining the heirs;
- (2) contains the statements required for informal applications as stated in subsection (a)(1) through (5) of section [15-3-301](#) of this

code, the statements required by subsection (b) (1) and (2) of section [15-3-301](#) of this code; and

(3) states whether the original of the last will of the decedent is in the possession of the court or accompanies the petition.

(b) If the original will is neither in the possession of the court nor accompanies the petition and no authenticated copy of a will probated in another jurisdiction accompanies the petition, the petition also must state the contents of the will, and indicate that it is lost, destroyed, or otherwise unavailable.

(c) A petition for adjudication of intestacy and appointment of an administrator in intestacy must request a judicial finding and order that the decedent left no will and determining the heirs, contain the statements required by subsection[s] (a) and (d) of section [15-3-301](#) of this code and indicate whether supervised administration is sought. A petition may request an order determining intestacy and heirs without requesting the appointment of an administrator, in which case, the statements required by subsection (d) (2) of section [15-3-301](#) of this code may be omitted.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-402, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-403. FORMAL TESTACY PROCEEDING -- NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION. (1) Upon commencement of a formal testacy proceeding, the court shall fix a time and place of hearing. Notice shall be given in the manner prescribed by section [15-1-401](#) of this code by the petitioner to the persons herein enumerated and to any additional person who has filed a demand for notice under section [15-3-204](#) of this code.

Notice shall be given to the following persons: the surviving spouse, children, and other heirs of the decedent, the devisees and executors named in any will that is being, or has been, probated, or offered for informal or formal probate in the county, or that is known by the petitioner to have been probated, or offered for informal or formal probate elsewhere, and any personal representative of the decedent whose appointment has not been terminated. Notice may be given to other persons.

(2) If it appears by the petition or otherwise that the fact of the death of the alleged decedent may be in doubt, or on the written demand of any interested person, a copy of the notice of the hearing on said petition shall be sent by registered mail to the alleged decedent at his last known address. The court shall direct the petitioner to report the results of, or make and report back concerning, a reasonably diligent search for the alleged decedent in any manner that may seem advisable, including any or all of the following methods:

(a) By inserting in one (1) or more suitable periodicals a notice requesting information from any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of the alleged decedent;

(b) By notifying law enforcement officials and public welfare agencies in appropriate locations of the disappearance of the alleged decedent;

(c) By engaging the services of an investigator. The costs of any search so directed shall be paid by the petitioner if there is no administration or by the estate of the decedent in case there is administration.

[15-3-403, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 2008, ch. 75, sec. 1, p. 200.]

15-3-404. FORMAL TESTACY PROCEEDINGS -- WRITTEN OBJECTIONS TO PROBATE. Any party to a formal proceeding who opposes the probate of a will for any reason shall state in his pleadings his objections to probate of the will.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-404, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-405. FORMAL TESTACY PROCEEDINGS -- UNCONTESTED CASES -- HEARINGS AND PROOF. If a petition in a testacy proceeding is unopposed, the court may order probate or intestacy on the strength of the pleadings if satisfied that the conditions of section [15-3-409](#) of this Part have been met, or conduct a hearing in open court and require proof of the matters necessary to support the order sought. If evidence concerning execution of the will is necessary, the affidavit or testimony of one (1) of any attesting witnesses to the instrument is sufficient. If the affidavit or testimony of an attesting witness is not available, execution of the will may be proved by other evidence or affidavit.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-405, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-406. FORMAL TESTACY PROCEEDINGS -- CONTESTED CASES -- TESTIMONY OF ATTESTING WITNESSES. (a) If evidence concerning execution of an attested will which is not self-proved is necessary in contested cases, the testimony of at least one (1) of the attesting witnesses, if within the state competent and able to testify, is required. Due execution of an attested or unattested will may be proved by other evidence.

(b) If the will is self-proved, compliance with signature requirements for execution is conclusively presumed and other requirements of execution are presumed subject to rebuttal without the testimony of any witness upon filing the will and the acknowledgment and affidavits annexed or attached thereto, unless there is proof of fraud or forgery.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-406, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1972, ch. 201, sec. 12, p. 510.]

15-3-407. FORMAL TESTACY PROCEEDINGS -- BURDENS IN CONTESTED CASES. In contested cases, petitioners who seek to establish intestacy have the burden of establishing prima facie proof of death, venue, and heirship. Proponents of a will have the burden of establishing prima facie proof of due execution in all cases, and, if they are also petitioners, prima facie proof of death and venue. Contestants of a will have the burden of establishing lack of testamentary intent or capacity, undue influence, fraud, duress, mistake or revocation. Parties have the ultimate burden of persuasion as to matters with respect to which they have the initial burden of proof. If a will is opposed by the petition for probate of a later will revoking the former, it shall be determined first whether the later will is entitled to probate, and if a will is opposed by a petition for a declaration of intestacy, it shall be determined first whether the will is entitled to probate.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-407, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-408. FORMAL TESTACY PROCEEDINGS -- WILL CONSTRUCTION -- EFFECT OF FINAL ORDER IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION. A final order of a court of another state determining testacy, the validity or construction of a will, made

in a proceeding involving notice to and an opportunity for contest by all interested persons must be accepted as determinative by the courts of this state if it includes, or is based upon, a finding that the decedent was domiciled at his death in the state where the order was made.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-408, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-409. FORMAL TESTACY PROCEEDINGS -- ORDER -- FOREIGN WILL -- LOST WILL. After the time required for any notice has expired, upon proof of notice, and after any hearing that may be necessary, if the court finds that the testator is dead, venue is proper and that the proceeding was commenced within the limitation prescribed by section [15-3-108](#) of this code, it shall determine the decedent's domicile at death, his heirs and his state of testacy. Any will found to be valid and unrevoked shall be formally probated. Termination of any previous informal appointment of a personal representative, which may be appropriate in view of the relief requested and findings, is governed by section [15-3-612](#) of this code. The petition shall be dismissed or appropriate amendment allowed if the court is not satisfied that the alleged decedent is dead. A will from a place which does not provide for probate of a will after death, may be proved for probate in this state by a duly authenticated certificate of its legal custodian that the copy introduced is a true copy and that the will has become effective under the law of the other place. When a lost will is established, the provisions thereof must be found by the court and the findings filed and recorded as other wills are filed and recorded.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-409, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-410. FORMAL TESTACY PROCEEDINGS -- PROBATE OF MORE THAN ONE INSTRUMENT. If two (2) or more instruments are offered for probate before a final order is entered in a formal testacy proceeding, more than one (1) instrument may be probated if neither expressly revokes the other or contains provisions which work a total revocation by implication. If more than one (1) instrument is probated, the order shall indicate what provisions control in respect to the nomination of an executor, if any. The order may, but need not, indicate how any provisions of a particular instrument are affected by the other instrument. After a final order in a testacy proceeding has been entered, no petition for probate of any other instrument of the decedent may be entertained, except incident to a petition to vacate or modify a previous probate order and subject to the time limits of section [15-3-412](#) of this Part.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-410, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-411. FORMAL TESTACY PROCEEDINGS -- PARTIAL INTESTACY. If it becomes evident in the course of a formal testacy proceeding that though one (1) or more instruments are entitled to be probated, the decedent's estate is or may be partially intestate, the court shall enter an order to that effect.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-411, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-412. FORMAL TESTACY PROCEEDINGS -- EFFECT OF ORDER -- VACATION. Subject to appeal and subject to vacation as provided herein and in section [15-3-413](#) of this part, a formal testacy order under sections

[15-3-409](#) through [15-3-411](#) of this part, including an order that the decedent left no valid will and determining heirs, is final as to all persons with respect to all issues concerning the decedent's estate that the court considered or might have considered incident to its rendition relevant to the question of whether the decedent left a valid will, and to the determination of heirs, except that:

(1) The court shall entertain a petition for modification or vacation of its order and probate of another will of the decedent if it is shown that the proponents of the later-offered will were unaware of its existence at the time of the earlier proceeding or were unaware of the earlier proceeding and were given no notice thereof, except by publication.

(2) If intestacy of all or part of the estate has been ordered, the determination of heirs of the decedent may be reconsidered if it is shown that one (1) or more persons were omitted from the determination and it is also shown that the persons were unaware of their relationship to the decedent, were unaware of his death or were given no notice of any proceeding concerning his estate, except by publication.

(3) A petition for vacation under either subsection (1) or (2) of this section must be filed prior to the earlier of the following time limits:

(a) If a personal representative has been appointed for the estate, the time of entry of any order approving final distribution of the estate, or, if the estate is closed by statement, six (6) months after the filing of the closing statement.

(b) Whether or not a personal representative has been appointed for the estate of the decedent, the time prescribed by section [15-3-108](#) of this code when it is no longer possible to initiate an original proceeding to probate a will of the decedent.

(c) Twelve (12) months after the entry of the order sought to be vacated.

(4) The order originally rendered in the testacy proceeding may be modified or vacated, if appropriate under the circumstances, by the order of probate of the later-offered will or the order redetermining heirs.

(5) The finding of the fact of death is conclusive as to the alleged decedent only if notice of the hearing on the petition in the formal testacy proceeding was sent by registered or certified mail addressed to the alleged decedent at his last known address and the court finds that a search under subsection (2) of section [15-3-403](#) of this part was made.

If the alleged decedent is not dead, even if notice was sent and search was made, he may recover estate assets in the hands of the personal representative. In addition to any remedies available to the alleged decedent by reason of any fraud or intentional wrongdoing, the alleged decedent may recover any estate or its proceeds from distributees that is in their hands, or the value of distributions received by them, to the extent that any recovery from distributees is equitable in view of all of the circumstances.

[[15-3-412](#), added 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 2008, ch. 75, sec. 2, p. 201.]

[15-3-413](#). FORMAL TESTACY PROCEEDINGS -- VACATION OF ORDER FOR OTHER CAUSE. For good cause shown, an order in a formal testacy proceeding may be modified or vacated within the time allowed for appeal.

[I.C., sec. [15-3-413](#), as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]



15-3-414. FORMAL PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE. (a) A formal proceeding for adjudication regarding the priority or qualification of one who is an applicant for appointment as personal representative, or of one who previously has been appointed personal representative in informal proceedings, if an issue concerning the testacy of the decedent is or may be involved, is governed by section [15-3-402](#) of this Part, as well as by this section. In other cases, the petition shall contain or adopt the statements required by subsection (a) of section [15-3-301](#) of this code and describe the question relating to priority or qualification of the personal representative which is to be resolved. If the proceeding precedes any appointment of a personal representative, it shall stay any pending informal appointment proceedings as well as any commenced thereafter. If the proceeding is commenced after appointment, the previously appointed personal representative, after receipt of notice thereof, shall refrain from exercising any power of administration except as necessary to preserve the estate or unless the court orders otherwise.

(b) After notice to interested persons, including all persons interested in the administration of the estate as successors under the applicable assumption concerning testacy, any previously appointed personal representative and any person having or claiming priority for appointment as personal representative, the court shall determine who is entitled to appointment under section [15-3-203](#) of this code, make a proper appointment and, if appropriate, terminate any prior appointment found to have been improper as provided in cases of removal under section [15-3-611](#) of this code.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-414, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

PART 5.  
SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

15-3-501. SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION -- NATURE OF PROCEEDING. Supervised administration is a single in rem proceeding to secure complete administration and settlement of a decedent's estate under the continuing authority of the court which extends until entry of an order approving distribution of the estate and discharging the personal representative or other order terminating the proceeding. A supervised personal representative is responsible to the court, as well as to the interested parties, and is subject to directions concerning the estate made by the court on its own motion or on the motion of any interested party. Except as otherwise provided in this Part, or as otherwise ordered by the court, a supervised personal representative has the same duties and powers as a personal representative who is not supervised.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-501, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-502. SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION -- PETITION -- ORDER. A petition for supervised administration may be filed by any interested person or by a personal representative at any time or the prayer for supervised administration may be joined with a petition in a testacy or appointment proceeding. If the testacy of the decedent and the priority and qualification of any personal representative have not been adjudicated previously, the petition for supervised administration shall include the matters required of a petition in a formal testacy proceeding and the notice requirements and procedures applicable to a formal testacy proceeding apply. If not previously adjudi-

cated, the court shall adjudicate the testacy of the decedent and questions relating to the priority and qualifications of the personal representative in any case involving a request for supervised administration, even though the request for supervised administration may be denied. After notice to interested persons, the court shall order supervised administration of a decedent's estate: (1) if the decedent's will directs supervised administration, it shall be ordered unless the court finds that circumstances bearing on the need for supervised administration have changed since the execution of the will and that there is no necessity for supervised administration; (2) if the decedent's will directs unsupervised administration, supervised administration shall be ordered only upon a finding that it is necessary for protection of persons interested in the estate; or (3) in other cases if the court finds that supervised administration is necessary under the circumstances.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-502, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-503. SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION -- EFFECT ON OTHER PROCEEDINGS. (a) The pendency of a proceeding for supervised administration of a decedent's estate stays action on any informal application then pending or thereafter filed.

(b) If a will has been previously probated in informal proceedings, the effect of the filing of a petition for supervised administration is as provided for formal testacy proceedings by section [15-3-401](#) of this code.

(c) After he has received notice of the filing of a petition for supervised administration, a personal representative who has been appointed previously shall not exercise his power to distribute any estate. The filing of the petition does not affect his other powers and duties unless the court restricts the exercise of any of them pending full hearing on the petition.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-503, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-504. SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION -- POWERS OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE. Unless restricted by the court, a supervised personal representative has, without interim orders approving exercise of a power, all powers of personal representatives under this code, but he shall not exercise his power to make any distribution of the estate without prior order of the court. Any other restriction on the power of a personal representative which may be ordered by the court must be indorsed on his letters of appointment and, unless so indorsed, is ineffective as to persons dealing in good faith with the personal representative.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-504, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-505. SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION -- INTERIM ORDERS -- DISTRIBUTION AND CLOSING ORDERS. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, supervised administration is terminated by order in accordance with time restrictions, notices and contents of orders prescribed for proceedings under section [15-3-1001](#) of this code. Interim orders approving or directing partial distributions or granting other relief may be issued by the court at any time during the pendency of a supervised administration on the application of the personal representative or any interested person.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-505, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

## PART 6.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE -- APPOINTMENT, CONTROL AND TERMINATION OF  
AUTHORITY

15-3-601. QUALIFICATION. Prior to receiving letters, a personal representative shall qualify by filing with the appointing court any required bond and a statement of acceptance of the duties of the office. In his statement of acceptance, the personal representative shall subscribe an oath to the effect that he will perform the duties of his office according to the law.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-601, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-602. ACCEPTANCE OF APPOINTMENT -- CONSENT TO JURISDICTION. By accepting appointment, a personal representative submits personally to the jurisdiction of the court in any proceeding relating to the estate that may be instituted by any interested person. Notice of any proceeding shall be delivered to the personal representative, or mailed to him by ordinary first class mail at his address as listed in the application or petition for appointment or as thereafter reported to the court and to his address as then known to the petitioner.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-602, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-603. BOND NOT REQUIRED WITHOUT COURT ORDER -- EXCEPTIONS. No bond is required of a personal representative appointed in informal proceedings, except (1) upon the appointment of a special administrator; (2) when an executor or other personal representative is appointed to administer an estate under a will containing an express requirement of bond or (3) when bond is required under section [15-3-605](#) of this chapter. Bond may be required by court order at the time of appointment of a personal representative appointed in any formal proceeding except that bond is not required of a personal representative appointed in formal proceedings if the will relieves the personal representative of bond, unless bond has been requested by an interested party and the court is satisfied that it is desirable. Bond required by any will may be dispensed with in formal proceedings upon determination by the court that it is not necessary. No bond is required of any personal representative who, pursuant to statute, has deposited cash or collateral with an agency of this state to secure performance of his duties. No bond will be required of any domestic bank or trust company.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-603, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-604. BOND AMOUNT -- SECURITY -- PROCEDURE -- REDUCTION. If bond is required and the provisions of the will or order do not specify the amount, unless stated in his application or petition, the person qualifying shall file a statement under oath with the registrar indicating his best estimate of the value of the personal estate of the decedent and of the income expected from the personal and real estate during the next year, and he shall execute and file a bond with the registrar, or give other suitable security, in an amount not less than the estimate. The registrar shall determine that the bond is duly executed by a corporate surety, or one (1) or more individual sureties whose performance is secured by pledge of personal property, mortgage on real property or other adequate security. The registrar may permit the amount of the bond to be reduced by the value of assets of the es-

tate deposited with a domestic financial institution (as defined in section [15-6-101](#) of this code) in a manner that prevents their unauthorized disposition. On petition of the personal representative or another interested person the court may excuse a requirement of bond, increase or reduce the amount of the bond, release sureties, or permit the substitution of another bond with the same or different sureties.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-604, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-605. DEMAND FOR BOND BY INTERESTED PERSON. Any person apparently having an interest in the estate worth in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or any creditor having a claim in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), may make a written demand that a personal representative give bond. The demand must be filed with the clerk of the court and a copy mailed to the personal representative, if appointment and qualification have occurred. Thereupon, bond is required, but the requirement ceases if the person demanding bond ceases to be interested in the estate, or if bond is excused as provided in section [15-3-603](#) or [15-3-604](#) of this Part. After he has received notice and until the filing of the bond or cessation of the requirement of bond, the personal representative shall refrain from exercising any powers of his office except as necessary to preserve the estate. Failure of the personal representative to meet a requirement of bond by giving suitable bond within thirty (30) days after receipt of notice is cause for his removal and appointment of a successor personal representative.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-605, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1974, ch. 199, sec. 2, p. 1516.]

15-3-606. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF BONDS. (a) The following requirements and provisions apply to any bond required by this Part:

(1) Bonds shall name the state of Idaho as obligee for the benefit of the persons interested in the estate and shall be conditioned upon the faithful discharge by the fiduciary of all duties according to law.

(2) Unless otherwise provided by the terms of the approved bond, sureties are jointly and severally liable with the personal representative and with each other. The address of sureties shall be stated in the bond.

(3) By executing an approved bond of a personal representative, the surety consents to the jurisdiction of the probate court which issued letters to the primary obligor in any proceedings pertaining to the fiduciary duties of the personal representative and naming the surety as a party. Notice of any proceeding shall be delivered to the surety or mailed to him by registered or certified mail at his address as listed with the court where the bond is filed and to his address as then known to the petitioner.

(4) On petition of a successor personal representative, any other personal representative of the same decedent, or any interested person, a proceeding in the court may be initiated against a surety for breach of the obligation of the bond of the personal representative.

(5) The bond of the personal representative is not void after the first recovery but may be proceeded against from time to time until the whole penalty is exhausted.

(b) No action or proceeding may be commenced against the surety on any matter as to which an action or proceeding against the primary obligor is barred by adjudication or limitation.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-606, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-607. ORDER RESTRAINING PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE. (a) On petition of any person who appears to have an interest in the estate, the court by temporary order may restrain a personal representative from performing specified acts of administration, disbursement, or distribution, or exercise of any powers or discharge of any duties of his office, or make any other order to secure proper performance of his duty, if it appears to the court that the personal representative otherwise may take some action which would jeopardize unreasonably the interest of the applicant or of some other interested person. Persons with whom the personal representative may transact business may be made parties.

(b) The matter shall be set for hearing within ten (10) days unless the parties otherwise agree. Notice as the court directs shall be given to the personal representative and his attorney of record, if any, and to any other parties named defendant in the petition.

(c) If any person is suspected of having concealed, embezzled, or smuggled, laid away or disposed of any moneys, goods, or chattels of the decedent or to have in his possession or subject to his knowledge, any deeds, conveyances, bonds, contracts, or other writings, or any personal estate, or any other claim or demand or any last will of the decedent, such person may be ordered to appear, examined on oath and held to account upon such matters.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-607, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-608. TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT -- GENERAL. Termination of appointment of a personal representative occurs as indicated in sections [15-3-609](#) through [15-3-612](#), inclusive, of this Part. Termination ends the right and power pertaining to the office of personal representative as conferred by this code or any will, except that a personal representative, at any time prior to distribution or until restrained or enjoined by court order, may perform acts necessary to protect the estate and may deliver the assets to a successor representative. Termination does not discharge a personal representative from liability for transactions or omissions occurring before termination, or relieve him of the duty to preserve assets subject to his control, to account therefor and to deliver the assets. Termination does not affect the jurisdiction of the court over the personal representative, but terminates his authority to represent the estate in any pending or future proceeding.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-608, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-609. TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT -- DEATH OR DISABILITY. The death of a personal representative or the appointment of a conservator for the estate of a personal representative, terminates his appointment. Until appointment and qualification of a successor or special representative to replace the deceased or protected representative, the representative of the estate of the deceased or protected personal representative, if any, has the duty to protect the estate possessed and being administered by his decedent or ward at the time his appointment terminates, has the power to perform acts

necessary for protection and shall account for and deliver the estate assets to a successor or special personal representative upon his appointment and qualification.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-609, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-610. TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT -- VOLUNTARY. (a) An appointment of a personal representative terminates as provided in section [15-3-1003](#) of this code, one (1) year after the filing of a closing statement.

(b) An order closing an estate as provided in section [15-3-1001](#) or [15-3-1002](#) of this code terminates an appointment of a personal representative.

(c) A personal representative may resign his position by filing a written statement of resignation with the registrar after he has given at least fifteen (15) days' written notice to the persons known to be interested in the estate. If no one applies or petitions for appointment of a successor representative within the time indicated in the notice, the filed statement of resignation is ineffective as a termination of appointment and in any event is effective only upon the appointment and qualification of a successor representative and delivery of the assets to him.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-610, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-611. TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT BY REMOVAL -- CAUSE -- PROCEDURE. (a) A person interested in the estate may petition for removal of a personal representative for cause at any time. Upon filing of the petition, the court shall fix a time and place for hearing. Notice shall be given by the petitioner to the personal representative, and to other persons as the court may order. Except as otherwise ordered as provided in section [15-3-607](#) of this Part, after receipt of notice of removal proceedings, the personal representative shall not act except to account, to correct maladministration or preserve the estate. If removal is ordered, the court also shall direct by order the disposition of the assets remaining in the name of, or under the control of, the personal representative being removed.

(b) Cause for removal exists when removal would be in the best interests of the estate, or if it is shown that a personal representative or the person seeking his appointment intentionally misrepresented material facts in the proceedings leading to his appointment, or that the personal representative has disregarded an order of the court, has become incapable of discharging the duties of his office, or has mismanaged the estate or failed to perform any duty pertaining to the office. Unless the decedent's will directs otherwise, a personal representative appointed at the decedent's domicile, incident to securing appointment of himself or his nominee as ancillary personal representative, may obtain removal of another who was appointed personal representative in this state to administer local assets.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-611, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-612. TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT -- CHANGE OF TESTACY STATUS. Except as otherwise ordered in formal proceedings, the probate of a will subsequent to the appointment of a personal representative in intestacy or under a will which is superseded by formal probate of another will, or the vacation of an informal probate of a will subsequent to the appointment of the personal representative thereunder, does not terminate the appointment of the personal representative although his powers may be reduced as provided

in section [15-3-401](#) of this code. Termination occurs upon appointment in informal or formal appointment proceedings of a person entitled to appointment under the later assumption concerning testacy. If no request for new appointment is made within thirty (30) days after expiration of time for appeal from the order in formal testacy proceedings, or from the informal probate, changing the assumption concerning testacy, the previously appointed personal representative upon request may be appointed personal representative under the subsequently probated will, or as in intestacy as the case may be.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-612, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-613. SUCCESSOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE. Parts 3 and 4 of this chapter govern proceedings for appointment of a personal representative to succeed one (1) whose appointment has been terminated. After appointment and qualification, a successor personal representative may be substituted in all actions and proceedings to which the former personal representative was a party, and no notice, process or claim which was given or served upon the former personal representative need be given to or served upon the successor in order to preserve any position or right the person giving the notice or filing the claim may thereby have obtained or preserved with reference to the former personal representative. Except as otherwise ordered by the court, the successor personal representative has the powers and duties in respect to the continued administration which the former personal representative would have had if his appointment had not been terminated.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-613, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-614. SPECIAL ADMINISTRATOR -- APPOINTMENT. A special administrator may be appointed:

(a) Informally by the registrar on the application of any interested person when necessary to protect the estate of a decedent prior to the appointment of a general personal representative or if a prior appointment has been terminated as provided in section [15-3-609](#) of this Part;

(b) In a formal proceeding by order of the court on the petition of any interested person and finding, after notice and hearing, that appointment is necessary to preserve the estate or to secure its proper administration including its administration in circumstances where a general personal representative cannot or should not act. If it appears to the court that an emergency exists, appointment may be ordered without notice.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-614, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-615. SPECIAL ADMINISTRATOR -- WHO MAY BE APPOINTED. (a) If a special administrator is to be appointed pending the probate of a will which is the subject of a pending application or petition for probate, the person named executor in the will shall be appointed if available, and qualified.

(b) In other cases, any proper person may be appointed special administrator.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-615, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-616. SPECIAL ADMINISTRATOR -- APPOINTED INFORMALLY -- POWERS AND DUTIES. A special administrator appointed by the registrar in informal pro-

ceedings pursuant to subsection (a) of section [15-3-614](#) of this Part has the duty to collect and manage the assets of the estate, to preserve them, to account therefor and to deliver them to the general personal representative upon his qualification. The special administrator has the power of a personal representative under this code necessary to perform his duties.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-616, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-617. SPECIAL ADMINISTRATOR -- FORMAL PROCEEDINGS -- POWERS AND DUTIES. A special administrator appointed by order of the court in any formal proceeding has the power of a general personal representative except as limited in the appointment and duties as prescribed in the order. The appointment may be for a specified time, to perform particular acts or on other terms as the court may direct.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-617, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-618. TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT -- SPECIAL ADMINISTRATOR. The appointment of a special administrator terminates in accordance with the provisions of the order of appointment or on the appointment of a general personal representative. In other cases, the appointment of a special administrator is subject to termination as provided in sections [15-3-608](#) through [15-3-611](#) of this Part.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-618, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

#### PART 7.

#### DUTIES AND POWERS OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES

15-3-701. TIME OF ACCRUAL OF DUTIES AND POWERS. Duties and powers of a personal representative commence upon his appointment. The powers of a personal representative relate back in time to give acts by the person appointed which are beneficial to the estate occurring prior to appointment the same effect as those occurring thereafter. A personal representative may ratify and accept acts on behalf of the estate done by others where the acts would have been proper for a personal representative.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-701, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-702. PRIORITY AMONG DIFFERENT LETTERS. A person to whom general letters are issued first has exclusive authority under the letters until his appointment is terminated or modified. If, through error, general letters are afterwards issued to another, the first appointed representative may recover any property of the estate in the hands of the representative subsequently appointed, but the acts of the latter done in good faith before notice of the first letters are not void for want of validity of appointment.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-702, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-703. GENERAL DUTIES -- RELATION AND LIABILITY TO PERSONS INTERESTED IN ESTATE -- STANDING TO SUE. (a) A personal representative is a fiduciary who shall observe the standards of care applicable to trustees as described by section [15-7-302](#) of this code. A personal representative is under a duty to settle and distribute the estate of the decedent in accordance



with the terms of any probated and effective will and this code, and as expeditiously and efficiently as is consistent with the best interests of the estate. He shall use the authority conferred upon him by this code, the terms of the will, if any, and any order in proceedings to which he is party for the best interests of successors to the estate.

(b) A personal representative shall not be surcharged for acts of administration or distribution if the conduct in question was authorized at the time. Subject to other obligations of administration, an informally probated will is authority to administer and distribute the estate according to its terms. An order of appointment of a personal representative, whether issued in informal or formal proceedings, is authority to distribute apparently intestate assets to the heirs of the decedent if, at the time of distribution, the personal representative is not aware of a pending testacy proceeding, a proceeding to vacate an order entered in an earlier testacy proceeding, a formal proceeding questioning his appointment or fitness to continue, or a supervised administration proceeding. Nothing in this section affects the duty of the personal representative to administer and distribute the estate in accordance with the rights of claimants, the surviving spouse, any minor and dependent children and any pretermitted child of the decedent as described elsewhere in this code.

(c) Except as to proceedings which do not survive the death of the decedent, a personal representative of a decedent domiciled in this state at his death has the same standing to sue and be sued in the courts of this state and the courts of any other jurisdiction as his decedent had immediately prior to death.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-703, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-704. PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO PROCEED WITHOUT COURT ORDER -- EXCEPTION. A personal representative shall proceed expeditiously with the settlement and distribution of a decedent's estate and, except as otherwise specified or ordered in regard to a supervised personal representative, do so without adjudication, order, or direction of the court, but he may invoke the jurisdiction of the court, in proceedings authorized by this code, to resolve questions concerning the estate or its administration.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-704, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-705. DUTY OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE -- INFORMATION TO HEIRS AND DEVISEES. Not later than thirty (30) days after his appointment every personal representative, except any special administrator, shall give information of his appointment to the heirs and devisees, including, if there has been no formal testacy proceeding and if the personal representative was appointed on the assumption that the decedent died intestate, the devisees in any will mentioned in the application for appointment of a personal representative. The information shall be delivered or sent by ordinary mail to each of the heirs and devisees whose address is reasonably available to the personal representative. The duty does not extend to require information to persons who have been adjudicated in a prior formal testacy proceeding to have no interest in the estate. The information shall include the name and address of the personal representative, indicate that it is being sent to persons who have or may have some interest in the estate being administered, indicate whether bond has been filed, and describe the court where papers relating to the estate are on file. The personal representative's failure to

give this information is a breach of his duty to the persons concerned but does not affect the validity of his appointment, his powers or other duties. A personal representative may inform other persons of his appointment by delivery or ordinary first class mail.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-705, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-706. DUTY OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE -- INVENTORY AND APPRAISEMENT. Within three (3) months after his appointment, a personal representative, except for a special administrator or a successor to another representative who has previously discharged this duty, shall prepare an inventory of property owned by the decedent at the time of his death, listing it with reasonable detail, and indicating as to each listed item, its fair market value as of the date of the decedent's death, and the type and amount of any encumbrance that may exist with reference to any item.

The personal representative shall send a copy of the inventory to interested persons who request it, and he may file the original of the inventory with the court.

[15-3-706, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1971, ch. 126, sec. 1, p. 487; am. 1973, ch. 167, sec. 10, p. 319; am. 2004, ch. 55, sec. 2, p. 257.]

15-3-707. EMPLOYMENT OF APPRAISERS. The personal representative may employ a qualified and disinterested appraiser to assist him in ascertaining the fair market value as of the date of the decedent's death of any asset the value of which may be subject to reasonable doubt. Different persons may be employed to appraise different kinds of assets included in the estate. The names and addresses of any appraiser shall be indicated on the inventory with the item or items he appraised.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-707, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-708. DUTY OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE -- SUPPLEMENTARY INVENTORY. If any property not included in the original inventory comes to the knowledge of a personal representative or if the personal representative learns that the value or description indicated in the original inventory for any item is erroneous or misleading, he shall make a supplementary inventory or appraisal showing the market value as of the date of the decedent's death of the new item or the revised market value or descriptions, and the appraisers or other data relied upon, if any, and file it with the court if the original inventory was filed, or send copies thereof to the state tax commission and to all interested persons to whom copies of the original inventory were sent pursuant to section [15-3-706](#), Idaho Code.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-708, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1973, ch. 167, sec. 11, p. 319.]

15-3-709. DUTY OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE -- POSSESSION OF ESTATE. Except as otherwise provided by a decedent's will, every personal representative has a right to, and shall take possession or control of, the decedent's property, except that any real property or tangible personal property may be left with or surrendered to the person presumptively entitled thereto unless or until, in the judgment of the personal representative, possession of the

property by him will be necessary for purposes of administration. The request by a personal representative for delivery of any property possessed by an heir or devisee is conclusive evidence, in any action against the heir or devisee for possession thereof, that the possession of the property by the personal representative is necessary for purposes of administration. The personal representative shall pay taxes on, and take all steps reasonably necessary for the management, protection and preservation of, the estate in his possession. He may maintain an action to recover possession of property or to determine the title thereto.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-709, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-710. POWER TO AVOID TRANSFERS. The property liable for the payment of unsecured debts of a decedent includes all property transferred by him by any means which is in law void or voidable as against his creditors, and subject to prior liens, the right to recover this property, so far as necessary for the payment of unsecured debts of the decedent, is exclusively in the personal representative. The personal representative is not required to institute such an action unless requested by creditors who must pay or secure the cost and expenses of litigation.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-710, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-711. POWERS OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES -- IN GENERAL. Until termination of his appointment a personal representative has the same power over the title to property of the estate that an absolute owner would have, in trust however, for the benefit of the creditors and others interested in the estate. This power may be exercised without notice, hearing, or order of court.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-711, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-712. IMPROPER EXERCISE OF POWER -- BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY. If the exercise of power concerning the estate is improper, the personal representative is liable to interested persons for damage or loss resulting from breach of his fiduciary duty to the same extent as a trustee of an express trust. The rights of purchasers and others dealing with a personal representative shall be determined as provided in sections [15-3-713](#) and [15-3-714](#) of this Part.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-712, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-713. SALE, ENCUMBRANCE OR TRANSACTION INVOLVING CONFLICT OF INTEREST -- VOIDABLE -- EXCEPTIONS. Any sale or encumbrance to the personal representative, his spouse, agent or attorney, or any corporation or trust in which he has a substantial beneficial interest, or any transaction which is affected by a substantial conflict of interest on the part of the personal representative, is voidable by any person interested in the estate except one (1) who has consented after fair disclosure, unless:

(a) the will or a contract entered into by the decedent expressly authorized the transaction; or

(b) the transaction is approved by the court after notice to interested persons.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-713, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-714. PERSONS DEALING WITH PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE -- PROTECTION. A person who in good faith either assists a personal representative or deals with him for value is protected as if the personal representative properly exercised his power. The fact that a person knowingly deals with a personal representative does not alone require the person to inquire into the existence of a power or the propriety of its exercise. Except for restrictions on powers of supervised personal representatives which are endorsed on letters as provided in section [15-3-504](#) of this code, and without regard to the constructive notice provisions of section [15-1-305A](#) of this code, no provision in any will or order of court purporting to limit the power of a personal representative is effective except as to persons with actual knowledge thereof. A person is not bound to see to the proper application of estate assets paid or delivered to a personal representative. The protection here expressed extends to instances in which some procedural irregularity or jurisdictional defect occurred in proceedings leading to the issuance of letters, including a case in which the alleged decedent is found to be alive. The protection here expressed is not by substitution for that provided by comparable provisions of the laws relating to commercial transactions and laws simplifying transfers of securities by fiduciaries.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-714, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-715. TRANSACTIONS AUTHORIZED FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES -- EXCEPTIONS. Except as restricted or otherwise provided by the will or by an order in a formal proceeding and subject to the priorities stated in section [15-3-902](#) of this code, a personal representative, acting reasonably for the benefit of the interested persons, may properly:

- (1) Retain assets owned by the decedent pending distribution or liquidation including those in which the representative is personally interested or which are otherwise improper for trust investment;
- (2) Receive assets from fiduciaries, or other sources;
- (3) Exercise the same power as the decedent in performance, compromise or refusal to perform the decedent's contracts which continue as obligations of the decedent's estate. In performing enforceable contracts by the decedent to convey or lease land, the personal representative, among other possible courses of action may:
  - (a) Execute and deliver a deed of conveyance for cash payment of all sums remaining due or the purchaser's note for the sum remaining due secured by a mortgage or deed of trust on the land; or
  - (b) Deliver a deed in escrow with directions that the proceeds, when paid in accordance with the escrow agreement, be paid to the successors of the decedent, as designated in the escrow agreement;
- (4) Satisfy written charitable pledges of the decedent irrespective of whether the pledges constituted binding obligations of the decedent or were properly presented as claims, if in the judgment of the personal representative the decedent would have wanted the pledges completed under the circumstances;
- (5) If funds are not needed to meet debts and expenses currently payable and are not immediately distributable, deposit or invest liquid assets of the estate, including moneys received from the sale of other assets, in federally insured interest-bearing accounts, readily marketable secured loan

arrangements or other prudent investments which would be reasonable for use by trustees generally;

(6) Acquire or dispose of an asset, including land in this or another state, for cash or on credit, at public or private sale; and manage, develop, improve, exchange, partition, change the character of, or abandon an estate asset;

(7) Make ordinary or extraordinary repairs or alterations in buildings or other structures, demolish any improvements, raze existing or erect new party walls or buildings;

(8) Subdivide, develop or dedicate land to public use; make or obtain the vacation of plats and adjust boundaries; or adjust differences in valuation on exchange or partition by giving or receiving considerations; or dedicate easements to public use without consideration;

(9) Enter for any purpose into a lease as lessor or lessee, with or without option to purchase or renew, for a term within or extending beyond the period of administration;

(10) Enter into a lease or arrangement for exploration and removal of minerals or other natural resources or enter into a pooling or unitization agreement;

(11) Abandon property when, in the opinion of the personal representative, it is valueless, or is so encumbered, or is in condition that it is of no benefit to the estate;

(12) Vote stocks or other securities in person or by general or limited proxy;

(13) Pay calls, assessments, and other sums chargeable or accruing against or on account of securities, unless barred by the provisions relating to claims;

(14) Hold a security in the name of a nominee or in other form without disclosure of the interest of the estate but the personal representative is liable for any act of the nominee in connection with the security so held;

(15) Insure the assets of the estate against damage, loss and liability and himself against liability as to third persons;

(16) Borrow money with or without security to be repaid from the estate assets or otherwise; and advance money for the protection of the estate;

(17) Effect a fair and reasonable compromise with any debtor or obligor, or extend, renew or in any manner modify the terms of any obligation owing to the estate. If the personal representative holds a mortgage, pledge or other lien upon property of another person, he may, in lieu of foreclosure, accept a conveyance or transfer of encumbered assets from the owner thereof in satisfaction of the indebtedness secured by lien;

(18) Pay taxes, assessments, compensation of the personal representative, and other expenses incident to the administration of the estate;

(19) Sell or exercise stock subscription or conversion rights; consent, directly or through a committee or other agent, to the reorganization, consolidation, merger, dissolution, or liquidation of a corporation or other business enterprise;

(20) Allocate items of income or expense to either estate income or principal, as permitted or provided by law;

(21) Employ persons, including attorneys, auditors, investment advisors, or agents, even if they are associated with the personal representative, to advise or assist the personal representative in the performance of his administrative duties; act without independent investigation upon their

recommendations; and instead of acting personally, employ one (1) or more agents to perform any act of administration, whether or not discretionary;

(22) Prosecute or defend claims, or proceedings in any jurisdiction for the protection of the estate and of the personal representative in the performance of his duties;

(23) Sell, mortgage, or lease any real or personal property of the estate or any interest therein for cash, credit, or for part cash and part credit, and with or without security for unpaid balances;

(24) Continue any unincorporated business or venture in which the decedent was engaged at the time of his death:

(a) In the same business form for a period of not more than four (4) months from the date of appointment of a general personal representative if continuation is a reasonable means of preserving the value of the business including good will;

(b) In the same business form for any additional period of time that may be approved by order of the court in a formal proceeding to which the persons interested in the estate are parties; or

(c) Throughout the period of administration if the business is incorporated by the personal representative and if none of the probable distributees of the business who are competent adults object to its incorporation and retention in the estate;

(25) Incorporate any business or venture in which the decedent was engaged at the time of his death;

(26) Provide for exoneration of the personal representative from personal liability in any contract entered into on behalf of the estate;

(27) Satisfy and settle claims and distribute the estate as provided in this code;

(28) Take control of, conduct, continue or terminate any accounts of the decedent on any social networking website, any microblogging or short message service website or any e-mail service website.

[15-3-715, added 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 2011, ch. 69, sec. 1, p. 144.]

15-3-716. POWERS AND DUTIES OF SUCCESSOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE. A successor personal representative has the same power and duty as the original personal representative to complete the administration and distribution of the estate, as expeditiously as possible, but he shall not exercise any power expressly made personal to the executor named in the will.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-716, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-717. COREPRESENTATIVES -- WHEN JOINT ACTION REQUIRED. If two (2) or more persons are appointed corepresentatives and unless the will provides otherwise, the concurrence of a majority is required on all acts connected with the administration and distribution of the estate. This restriction does not apply when any corepresentative receives and receipts for property due the estate, when the concurrence of all cannot readily be obtained in the time reasonably available for emergency action necessary to preserve the estate, or when a corepresentative has been delegated to act for the others. Persons dealing with a corepresentative if actually unaware that another has been appointed to serve with him or if advised by the personal representative with whom they deal that he has authority to act alone for any of the rea-

sons mentioned herein, are as fully protected as if the person with whom they dealt had been the sole personal representative.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-717, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-718. POWERS OF SURVIVING PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE. Unless the terms of the will otherwise provide, every power exercisable by personal corepresentatives may be exercised by the one (1) or more remaining after the appointment of one (1) or more is terminated, and if one (1) of two (2) or more nominated as coexecutors is not appointed, those appointed may exercise all the powers incident to the office.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-718, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-719. COMPENSATION OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE. A personal representative is entitled to reasonable compensation for his services. If a will provides for compensation of the personal representative and there is no contract with the decedent regarding compensation, he may renounce the provision before qualifying and be entitled to reasonable compensation. A personal representative may also renounce his right to all or any part of the compensation. A written renunciation of fee may be filed with the court.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-719, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-720. EXPENSES IN ESTATE LITIGATION. If any personal representative or person nominated as personal representative defends or prosecutes any proceeding in good faith, whether successful or not, he is entitled to receive from the estate his necessary expenses and disbursements including reasonable attorney's fees incurred.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-720, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-721. PROCEEDINGS FOR REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT OF AGENTS AND COMPENSATION OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND EMPLOYEES OF ESTATE. After notice to all interested persons or on petition of an interested person or on appropriate motion if administration is supervised, the propriety of employment of any person by a personal representative including any attorney, auditor, investment advisor or other specialized agent or assistant, the reasonableness of the compensation of any person so employed, or the reasonableness of the compensation determined by the personal representative for his own services, may be reviewed by the court. Any person who has received excessive compensation from an estate for services rendered may be ordered to make appropriate refunds.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-721, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

#### PART 8. CREDITORS' CLAIMS

15-3-801. NOTICE TO CREDITORS. (a) Unless notice has already been given under this section, a personal representative upon his appointment may publish a notice to creditors once a week for three (3) successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county announcing his appointment and address and notifying creditors of the estate to present their claims

within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of the notice or be forever barred.

(b) A personal representative may give written notice by mail or other delivery to any creditor, notifying the creditor to present his claim within four (4) months after the published notice if given as provided in subsection (a) of this section or within sixty (60) days after the mailing or delivery of the notice, whichever is later, or be forever barred. Written notice must be the notice described in subsection (a) of this section or a similar notice.

(c) The personal representative is not liable to any creditor or to any successor of the decedent for giving or failing to give notice under this section.

(d) If medical assistance was paid on behalf of the decedent when the decedent was fifty-five (55) years of age or older, the personal representative shall provide written notice as required by section [56-218](#)(5), Idaho Code.

[15-3-801, added 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1991, ch. 87, sec. 1, p. 192; am. 1998, ch. 9, sec. 2, p. 108.]

15-3-802. STATUTES OF LIMITATIONS. (a) Unless an estate is insolvent, the personal representative, with the consent of all successors whose interests would be affected, may waive any defense of limitations available to the estate. If the defense is not waived, no claim barred by a statute of limitations at the time of the decedent's death may be allowed or paid.

(b) The running of a statute of limitations measured from an event other than death or the giving of notice to creditors is suspended during the four (4) months following the decedent's death but resumes thereafter as to claims not barred pursuant to the sections which follow.

(c) For purposes of a statute of limitations, the proper presentation of a claim under section [15-3-804](#), Idaho Code, is equivalent to commencement of a proceeding on the claim.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-802, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1978, ch. 350, sec. 12, p. 922; am. 1991, ch. 87, sec. 2, p. 192.]

15-3-803. LIMITATIONS ON PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS. (a) All claims against a decedent's estate which arose before the death of the decedent, including claims of the state and any subdivision thereof (except claims for state taxes), whether due or to become due, absolute or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, founded on contract, tort, or other legal basis, if not barred earlier by another statute of limitations or nonclaim statute, are barred against the estate, the personal representative, and the heirs and devisees of the decedent, unless presented within the earlier of the following dates:

- (1) three (3) years after the decedent's death; or
- (2) within the time provided in section [15-3-801](#)(b), Idaho Code, for creditors who are given actual notice, and within the time provided in section [15-3-801](#)(a), Idaho Code, for all creditors barred by publication.

(b) All claims described in subsection (a) of this section barred by the nonclaim statute of the decedent's domicile before the giving of notice to creditors in this state are also barred in this state.

(c) All claims against a decedent's estate which arise at or after the death of the decedent, including claims of the state and any subdivision



thereof (except claims for state taxes), whether due or to become due, absolute or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, founded on contract, tort, or other legal basis, are barred against the estate, the personal representative, and the heirs and devisees of the decedent, unless presented as follows:

- (1) a claim based on a contract with the personal representative, within four (4) months after performance by the personal representative is due;
  - (2) any other claim, within the later of four (4) months after it arises, or the time specified in subsection (a) (1) of this section.
- (d) Claims relating to state taxes, whether due or to become due, absolute or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, are barred against the estate, the personal representative, and the heirs and devisees of the decedent, unless presented within the earlier of the following dates:
- (1) three (3) years from the latest of:
    - (i) the date of the decedent's death,
    - (ii) the due date of the return (without regard to extensions), or
    - (iii) the date the return was filed; or
  - (2) within the time provided in section [63-3068](#) (e) or [63-3633](#) (e), Idaho Code, if the state tax commission has been given written notice in accordance with the provisions of those sections.
- (e) Nothing in this section affects or prevents:
- (1) any proceeding to enforce any mortgage, pledge, or other lien upon property of the estate;
  - (2) to the limits of the insurance protection only, any proceeding to establish liability of the decedent or the personal representative for which he is protected by liability insurance;
  - (3) collection of compensation for services rendered and reimbursement for expenses advanced by the personal representative or by the attorney or accountant for the personal representative of the estate; or
  - (4) assessment or collection of state taxes arising from activities or transactions of the estate; or
  - (5) assessment or collection of state taxes if a return has not been filed with the state tax commission.

[15-3-803, added 1991, ch. 87, sec. 4, p. 193; am. 1997, ch. 113, sec. 2, p. 279; am. 2004, ch. 130, sec. 1, p. 449.]

15-3-804. MANNER OF PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS. Claims against a decedent's estate may be presented as follows:

(a) The claimant shall deliver or mail to the personal representative a written statement of the claim indicating its basis, the name and address of the claimant, and the amount claimed, and file a written statement of the claim, in the form prescribed by rule, with the clerk of the court. The claim is deemed presented on the last to occur of: (1) delivery or mailing of the written statement of claim to the personal representative; or, (2) the filing of the claim with the court. If a claim is not yet due, the date when it will become due shall be stated. If the claim is contingent or unliquidated, the nature of the uncertainty shall be stated. If the claim is secured, the security shall be described. Failure to describe correctly the security, the nature of any uncertainty, and the due date of a claim not yet due does not invalidate the presentation made.

(b) The claimant may commence a proceeding against the personal representative in any court where the personal representative may be subjected

to jurisdiction, to obtain payment of his claim against the estate, but the commencement of the proceeding must occur within the time limited for presenting the claim. No presentation of claim is required in regard to matters claimed in proceedings against the decedent which were pending at the time of his death.

(c) If a claim is presented under subsection (a) of this section, no proceeding thereon may be commenced more than sixty (60) days after the personal representative has mailed a notice of disallowance; but, in the case of a claim which is not presently due or which is contingent or unliquidated, the personal representative may consent to an extension of the sixty (60) day period, or to avoid injustice the court, on petition, may order an extension of the sixty (60) day period, but in no event shall the extension run beyond the applicable statute of limitations.

[15-3-804, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1992, ch. 240, sec. 1, p. 712; am. 2004, ch. 124, sec. 1, p. 416.]

15-3-805. CLASSIFICATION OF CLAIMS. (a) If the applicable assets of the estate are insufficient to pay all claims in full, the personal representative shall make payment in the following order:

- (1) costs and expenses of administration;
- (2) reasonable funeral expenses;
- (3) debts and taxes with preference under federal law;
- (4) reasonable and necessary medical and hospital expenses of the last illness of the decedent, including compensation of persons attending him;
- (5) debts and taxes with preference under other laws of this state;
- (6) all other claims.

(b) No preference shall be given in the payment of any claim over any other claim of the same class, and a claim due and payable shall not be entitled to a preference over claims not due.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-805, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1973, ch. 167, sec. 13, p. 319.]

15-3-806. ALLOWANCE OF CLAIMS. (a) As to claims presented in the manner described in section [15-3-804](#) (a) of this Part within the time limit prescribed in 15-3-803 of this Part, the personal representative may mail a notice to any claimant stating that the claim has been disallowed. If, after allowing or disallowing a claim, the personal representative changes his decision concerning the claim, he shall notify the claimant. The personal representative may not change a disallowance of a claim after the time for the claimant to file a petition for allowance or to commence a proceeding on the claim has run and the claim has been barred. Every claim which is disallowed in whole or in part by the personal representative is barred so far as not allowed unless the claimant files a petition for allowance in the court or commences a proceeding against the personal representative not later than sixty (60) days after the mailing of the notice of disallowance or partial allowance if the notice warns the claimant of the impending bar. Failure of the personal representative to mail notice to a claimant of action on his claim for sixty (60) days after the time for original presentation of the claim has expired has the effect of a notice of allowance.

(b) Upon the petition of the personal representative or of a claimant in a proceeding for the purpose, the court may allow in whole or in part any

claim or claims presented to the personal representative or filed with the clerk of the court in due time and not barred by subsection (a) of this section. Notice in this proceeding shall be given to the claimant, the personal representative and those other persons interested in the estate as the court may direct by order entered at the time the proceeding is commenced.

(c) A judgment in a proceeding in another court against a personal representative to enforce a claim against a decedent's estate is an allowance of the claim.

(d) Unless otherwise provided in any judgment in another court entered against the personal representative, allowed claims bear interest at the legal rate for the period commencing sixty (60) days after the time for original presentation of the claim has expired unless based on a contract making a provision for interest, in which case they bear interest in accordance with that provision.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-806, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1974, ch. 199, sec. 3, p. 1516.]

15-3-807. PAYMENT OF CLAIMS. (a) Upon the expiration of the earlier of the time limitations provided in section [15-3-803](#), Idaho Code, for the presentation of claims, the personal representative shall proceed to pay the claims allowed against the estate in the order of priority prescribed, after making provision for homestead, family and support allowances, for claims already presented that have not yet been allowed or whose allowance has been appealed, and for unbarred claims that may yet be presented, including costs and expenses of administration. By petition to the court in a proceeding for the purpose, or by appropriate motion if the administration is supervised, a claimant whose claim has been duly allowed but not paid may secure an order directing the personal representative to pay the claim to the extent funds of the estate are available to pay it.

(b) The personal representative at any time may pay any just claim that has not been barred, with or without formal presentation, but he is personally liable to any other claimant whose claim is allowed and who is injured by its payment if:

(1) payment was made before the expiration of the time limit stated in subsection (a) of this section and the personal representative failed to require the payee to give adequate security for the refund of any of the payment necessary to pay other claimants; or

(2) payment was made, due to negligence or wilful fault of the personal representative, in such manner as to deprive the injured claimant of priority.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-807, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1991, ch. 87, sec. 5, p. 194.]

15-3-808. INDIVIDUAL LIABILITY OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE. (a) Unless otherwise provided in the contract, a personal representative is not individually liable on a contract properly entered into in his fiduciary capacity in the course of administration of the estate unless he fails to reveal his representative capacity and identify the estate in the contract.

(b) A personal representative is individually liable for obligations arising from ownership or control of the estate or for torts committed in the course of administration of the estate only if he is personally at fault.

(c) Claims based on contracts entered into by a personal representative in his fiduciary capacity, on obligations arising from ownership or control of the estate or on torts committed in the course of estate administration may be asserted against the estate by proceeding against the personal representative in his fiduciary capacity, whether or not the personal representative is individually liable therefor.

(d) Issues of liability as between the estate and the personal representative individually may be determined in a proceeding for accounting, surcharge or indemnification or other appropriate proceeding.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-808, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-809. SECURED CLAIMS. Payment of a secured claim is upon the basis of the amount allowed if the creditor surrenders his security; otherwise payment is upon the basis of one of the following:

(a) If the creditor exhausts his security before receiving payment, unless precluded by other law upon the amount of the claim allowed less the fair value of the security; or

(b) If the creditor does not have the right to exhaust his security or has not done so, upon the amount of the claim allowed less the value of the security determined by converting it into money according to the terms of the agreement pursuant to which the security was delivered to the creditor, or by the creditor and personal representative by agreement, arbitration, compromise or litigation.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-809, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-810. CLAIMS NOT DUE AND CONTINGENT OR UNLIQUIDATED CLAIMS. (a) If a claim which will become due at a future time or a contingent or unliquidated claim becomes due or certain before the distribution of the estate, and if the claim has been allowed or established by a proceeding, it is paid in the same manner as presently due and absolute claims of the same class.

(b) In other cases the personal representative or, on petition of the personal representative or the claimant in a special proceeding for the purpose, the court may provide for payment as follows:

(1) if the claimant consents, he may be paid the present or agreed value of the claim, taking any uncertainty into account;

(2) arrangement for future payment, or possible payment, on the happening of the contingency or on liquidation may be made by creating a trust, giving a mortgage, obtaining a bond or security from a distributee, or otherwise.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-810, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-811. COUNTERCLAIMS. In allowing a claim the personal representative may deduct any counterclaim which the estate has against the claimant. In determining a claim against an estate a court shall reduce the amount allowed by the amount of any counterclaims and, if the counterclaims exceed the claim, render a judgment against the claimant in the amount of the excess. A counterclaim, liquidated or unliquidated, may arise from a transaction other than that upon which the claim is based. A counterclaim may give rise to relief exceeding in amount or different in kind from that sought in the claim.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-811, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-812. EXECUTION AND LEVIES PROHIBITED. No execution may issue upon nor may any levy be made against any property of the estate under any judgment against a decedent or a personal representative, but this section shall not be construed to prevent the enforcement of mortgages, pledges or liens upon real or personal property in an appropriate proceeding.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-812, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-813. COMPROMISE OF CLAIMS. When a claim against the estate has been presented in any manner, the personal representative may, if it appears for the best interest of the estate, compromise the claim, whether due or not due, absolute or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-813, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-814. ENCUMBERED ASSETS. If any assets of the estate are encumbered by mortgage, pledge, lien, or other security interest, the personal representative may pay the encumbrance or any part thereof, renew or extend any obligation secured by the encumbrance or convey or transfer the assets to the creditor in satisfaction of his lien, in whole or in part, whether or not the holder of the encumbrance has presented a claim, if it appears to be for the best interest of the estate. Payment of an encumbrance does not increase the share of the distributee entitled to the encumbered assets unless the distributee is entitled to exoneration.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-814, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1978, ch. 350, sec. 13, p. 922.]

15-3-815. ADMINISTRATION IN MORE THAN ONE STATE -- DUTY OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE. (a) All assets of estates being administered in this state are subject to all claims, allowances and charges existing or established against the personal representative wherever appointed.

(b) If the estate either in this state or as a whole is insufficient to cover all family exemptions and allowances determined by the law of the decedent's domicile, prior charges and claims, after satisfaction of the exemptions, allowances and charges, each claimant whose claim has been allowed either in this state or elsewhere in administrations of which the personal representative is aware, is entitled to receive payment of an equal proportion of his claim. If a preference or security in regard to a claim is allowed in another jurisdiction but not in this state, the creditor so benefited is to receive dividends from local assets only upon the balance of his claim after deducting the amount of the benefit.

(c) In case the family exemptions and allowances, prior charges and claims of the entire estate exceed the total value of the portions of the estate being administered separately and this state is not the state of the decedent's last domicile, the claims allowed in this state shall be paid their proportion if local assets are adequate for the purpose, and the balance of local assets shall be transferred to the domiciliary personal representative. If local assets are not sufficient to pay all claims allowed in this state the amount to which they are entitled, local assets shall be marshalled so that each claim allowed in this state is paid its proportion as

far as possible, after taking into account all dividends on claims allowed in this state from assets in other jurisdictions.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-815, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-816. FINAL DISTRIBUTION TO DOMICILIARY REPRESENTATIVE. The estate of a non-resident decedent being administered by a personal representative appointed in this state shall, if there is a personal representative of the decedent's domicile willing to receive it, be distributed to the domiciliary personal representative for the benefit of the successors of the decedent unless (1) by virtue of the decedent's will, if any, and applicable choice of law rules, the successors are identified pursuant to the local law of this state without reference to the local law of the decedent's domicile; (2) the personal representative of this state, after reasonable inquiry, is unaware of the existence or identity of a domiciliary personal representative; or (3) the court orders otherwise in a proceeding for a closing order under section [15-3-1001](#) of this code or incident to the closing of a supervised administration. In other cases, distribution of the estate of a decedent shall be made in accordance with the other Parts of this chapter.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-816, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-817. COMMUNITY ESTATES. If a community estate is administered as if each decedent survived the other because of application of the simultaneous death act, section [15-2-104](#) and section [15-2-601](#) of this code, or the provisions of a will, community debts will be charged ratably to each half of the community estate and separate debts to the estate of the decedent by whom they were incurred.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-817, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

#### PART 9.

#### SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO DISTRIBUTION

15-3-901. SUCCESSORS' RIGHTS IF NO ADMINISTRATION. In the absence of administration, the heirs and devisees are entitled to the estate in accordance with the terms of a probated will or the laws of intestate succession. Devisees may establish title by the probated will to devised property. Persons entitled to property by homestead allowance, exemption or intestacy may establish title thereto by proof of the decedent's ownership, his death, and their relationship to the decedent. Successors take subject to all charges incident to administration, including the claims of creditors and allowances of surviving spouse and dependent children, and subject to the rights of others resulting from abatement, retainer, advancement, and ademption.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-901, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-902. DISTRIBUTION -- ORDER IN WHICH ASSETS APPROPRIATED -- ABATEMENT. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) and except as provided in connection with the share of the surviving spouse who elects to take an elective share, shares of distributees abate, without any preference or priority as between real and personal property, in the following order: (1) property not disposed of by the will; (2) residuary devises; (3) general devises; (4) spe-

cific devise. For purposes of abatement, a general devise charged on any specific property or fund is a specific devise to the extent of the value of the property on which it is charged, and upon the failure or insufficiency of the property on which it is charged, a general devise to the extent of the failure or insufficiency. Abatement within each classification is in proportion to the amounts of property each of the beneficiaries would have received if full distribution of the property had been made in accordance with the terms of the will.

(b) If the will expresses an order of abatement, or if the testamentary plan or the express or implied purpose of the devise would be defeated by the order of abatement stated in subsection (a) of this section, the shares of the distributees abate as may be found necessary to give effect to the intention of the testator.

(c) If an estate of a decedent consists partly of separate property and partly of community property, community debts shall be charged to community property and separate debts to separate property. Expenses of administration shall be apportioned and charged against the different kinds of property in proportion to the relative value thereof, except that none of such expenses shall be apportioned or charged to the survivor's share of the community property.

(d) If the subject of a preferred devise is sold or used incident to administration, abatement shall be achieved by appropriate adjustments in, or contribution from, other interests in the remaining assets.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-902, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-903. RIGHT OF RETAINER. The amount of a non-contingent indebtedness of a successor to the estate if due, or its present value if not due, shall be offset against the successor's interest; but the successor has the benefit of any defense which would be available to him in a direct proceeding for recovery of the debt.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-903, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-904. INTEREST ON GENERAL PECUNIARY DEVISE. General pecuniary devises bear interest at the legal rate beginning one (1) year after the first appointment of a personal representative until payment, unless a contrary intent is indicated by the will.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-904, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-905. PENALTY CLAUSE FOR CONTEST. A provision in a will purporting to penalize any interested person for contesting the will or instituting other proceedings relating to the estate is unenforceable if probable cause exists for instituting proceedings.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-905, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-906. DISTRIBUTION IN KIND -- VALUATION -- METHOD. (a) Unless a contrary intention is indicated by the will, the distributable assets of a decedent's estate shall be distributed in kind to the extent possible through application of the following provisions:

(1) A specific devisee is entitled to distribution of the thing devised to him, and a spouse or child who has selected particular assets of an

estate as provided in section [15-2-403](#), Idaho Code, shall receive the items selected.

(2) Any homestead or devise payable in money may be satisfied by value in kind provided:

(A) The person entitled to the payment has not demanded payment in cash;

(B) The property distributed in kind is valued at fair market value as of the date of its distribution; and

(C) No residuary devisee has requested that the asset in question remain a part of the residue of the estate.

(3) For the purpose of valuation under paragraph (2), securities regularly traded on recognized exchanges, if distributed in kind, are valued at the price for the last sale of like securities traded on the business day prior to distribution, or if there was no sale on that day, at the median between amounts bid and offered at the close of that day. Assets consisting of sums owed the decedent or the estate by solvent debtors as to which there is no known dispute or defense are valued at the sum due with accrued interest or discounted to the date of distribution. For assets that do not have readily ascertainable values, a valuation as of a date not more than thirty (30) days prior to the date of distribution, if otherwise reasonable, controls. For purposes of facilitating distribution, the personal representative may ascertain the value of the assets as of the time of the proposed distribution in any reasonable way, including the employment of qualified appraisers, even if the assets may have been previously appraised.

(4) The residuary estate shall be distributed in kind if there is no objection to the proposed distribution and it is practicable to distribute undivided interests. In other cases, residuary property may be converted into cash for distribution.

(b) After the probable charges against the estate are known, the personal representative may mail or deliver a proposal for distribution to all persons who have a right to object to the proposed distribution. The right of any distributee to object to the proposed distribution on the basis of the kind or value of asset he is to receive, if not waived earlier in writing, terminates if he fails to object in writing received by the personal representative within thirty (30) days after mailing or delivery of the proposal.

[15-3-906, added 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 2001, ch. 294, sec. 8, p. 1042; am. 2016, ch. 262, sec. 4, p. 683.]

15-3-907. DISTRIBUTION IN KIND -- EVIDENCE. If distribution in kind is made, the personal representative shall execute an instrument or deed of distribution assigning, transferring or releasing the assets to the distributee as evidence of the distributee's title to the property.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-907, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-907A. DECEASED BENEFICIARY AS HEIR. (a) If the decedent has left a surviving child or children or issue of children among the persons who are by law entitled to succeed to his estate, and any of them, before the close of administration, has died before reaching the age of eighteen (18) and not having married, no administration of such deceased issue's estate is necessary, but all the estate which such deceased issue is entitled to receive by



inheritance must, without administration, be distributed to the heirs at law of the deceased issue.

(b) If any other heir, legatee, or devisee shall die after the decedent's death and before distribution, property to which he might be entitled shall be distributed to the representative of his estate or directly to his heirs, legatees or devisees or the persons entitled thereto.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-907A, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-908. DISTRIBUTION -- RIGHT OR TITLE OF DISTRIBUTE. Proof that a distributee has received an instrument or deed of distribution of assets in kind, or payment in distribution, from a personal representative, is conclusive evidence that the distributee has succeeded to the interest of the estate in the distributed assets, as against all persons interested in the estate, except that the personal representative may recover the assets or their value if the distribution was improper.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-908, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-909. IMPROPER DISTRIBUTION -- LIABILITY OF DISTRIBUTE. Unless the distribution or payment no longer can be questioned because of adjudication, estoppel, or limitation, a distributee of property improperly distributed or paid, or a claimant who was improperly paid, is liable to return the property improperly received and its income since distribution if he has the property. If he does not have the property, then he is liable to return the value as of the date of disposition of the property improperly received and its income and gain received by him.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-909, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-910. PURCHASERS FROM DISTRIBUTEES PROTECTED. If property distributed in kind or a security interest therein is acquired for value by a purchaser from, or lender to, a distributee who has received an instrument or deed of distribution from the personal representative, or is so acquired by a purchaser from or lender to a transferee from such distributee, the purchaser or lender takes title free of rights of any interested person in the estate and incurs no personal liability to the estate, or to any interested person, whether or not the distribution was proper or supported by court order and whether or not the authority of the personal representative was terminated prior to execution of the instrument or deed. This section protects a purchaser from or lender to a distributee who, as personal representative, has executed a deed of distribution to himself, as well as a purchaser from or lender to any other distributee or his transferee. To be protected under this provision, a purchaser or lender need not inquire whether a personal representative acted properly in making the distribution in kind, even if the personal representative and the distributee are the same person, or whether the authority of the personal representative had terminated prior to the distribution. Any recorded instrument described in this section shall be prima facie evidence that such transfer was made for value.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-910, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1978, ch. 350, sec. 14, p. 922.]

15-3-911. PARTITION FOR PURPOSE OF DISTRIBUTION. When two (2) or more heirs or devisees are entitled to distribution of undivided interests in any real or personal property of the estate, the personal representative or one (1) or more of the heirs or devisees may petition the court prior to the formal or informal closing of the estate, to make partition. After notice to the interested heirs or devisees, the court shall partition the property in the same manner as provided by the law for civil actions of partition. The court may direct the personal representative to sell any property which cannot be partitioned without prejudice to the owners and which cannot conveniently be allotted to any one party.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-911, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-912. PRIVATE AGREEMENTS AMONG SUCCESSORS TO DECEDENT BINDING ON PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE. Subject to the rights of creditors and taxing authorities, competent successors may agree among themselves to alter the interests, shares, or amounts to which they are entitled under the will of the decedent, or under the laws of intestacy, in any way that they provide in a written contract executed by all who are affected by its provisions. The personal representative shall abide by the terms of the agreement subject to his obligation to administer the estate for the benefit of creditors, to pay all taxes and costs of administration, and to carry out the responsibilities of his office for the benefit of any successors of the decedent who are not parties. Personal representatives of decedent's [decedents'] estates are not required to see to the performance of trusts if the trustee thereof is another person who is willing to accept the trust. Accordingly, trustees of a testamentary trust are successors for the purposes of this section. Nothing herein relieves trustees of any duties owed to beneficiaries of trusts.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-912, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-913. DISTRIBUTIONS TO TRUSTEE. (a) Before distributing to a trustee, the personal representative may require that the trust be registered if the state in which it is to be administered provides for registration and that the trustee inform the beneficiaries as provided in section [15-7-303](#) of this code.

(b) If the trust instrument does not excuse the trustee from giving bond, the personal representative may petition the appropriate court to require that the trustee post bond if he apprehends that distribution might jeopardize the interests of persons who are not able to protect themselves, and he may withhold distribution until the court has acted.

(c) No inference of negligence on the part of the personal representative shall be drawn from his failure to exercise the authority conferred by subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-913, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-914. DISPOSITION OF UNCLAIMED ASSETS. If an heir, devisee or claimant cannot be found, the personal representative shall distribute the share of the missing person to his trustee if one has been appointed or, if no trustee has been appointed, shall file the report of abandoned property required by section [14-517](#), Idaho Code, and deliver the property in the manner set forth in section [14-519](#), Idaho Code.

[15-3-914, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1980, ch. 281, sec. 4, p. 751; am. 1984, ch. 36, sec. 5, p. 63; am. 1992, ch. 21, sec. 8, p. 70; am. 2007, ch. 97, sec. 4, p. 282; am. 2012, ch. 215, sec. 4, p. 587.]

15-3-915. DISTRIBUTION TO PERSON UNDER DISABILITY. A personal representative may discharge his obligation to distribute to any person under legal disability by distributing to his conservator, or any other person authorized by this code or otherwise to give a valid receipt and discharge for the distribution.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-915, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

PART 10.  
CLOSING ESTATES

15-3-1001. FORMAL PROCEEDINGS TERMINATING ADMINISTRATION -- TESTATE OR INTESTATE -- ORDER OF GENERAL PROTECTION. (a) A personal representative or any interested person may petition for an order of complete settlement of the estate. The personal representative may petition at any time, and any other interested person may petition after one (1) year from the appointment of the original personal representative except that no petition under this section may be entertained until the time for presenting claims which arose prior to the death of the decedent has expired. The petition may request the court to determine testacy, if not previously determined, to consider the final account or compel or approve an accounting and distribution, to construe any will or determine heirs and adjudicate the final settlement and distribution of the estate. After notice to all interested persons and hearing the court may enter an order or orders, on appropriate conditions, determining the persons entitled to distribution of the estate, and, as circumstances require, approving settlement and directing or approving distribution of the estate and discharging the personal representative from further claim or demand of any interested person.

(b) If one (1) or more heirs or devisees were omitted as parties in, or were not given notice of, a previous formal testacy proceeding, the court, on proper petition for an order of complete settlement of the estate under this section, and after notice to the omitted or unnotified persons and other interested parties determined to be interested on the assumption that the previous order concerning testacy is conclusive as to those given notice of the earlier proceeding, may determine testacy as it affects the omitted persons and confirm or alter the previous order of testacy as it affects all interested persons as appropriate in the light of the new proofs. In the absence of objection by an omitted or unnotified person, evidence received in the original testacy proceeding shall constitute prima facie proof of due execution of any will previously admitted to probate, or of the fact that the decedent left no valid will if the prior proceedings determined this fact.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-1001, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-1002. FORMAL PROCEEDINGS TERMINATING TESTATE ADMINISTRATION -- ORDER CONSTRUING WILL WITHOUT ADJUDICATING TESTACY. A personal representative administering an estate under an informally probated will or any devisee under an informally probated will may petition for an order of settlement of the estate which will not adjudicate the testacy status of the

decedent. The personal representative may petition at any time, and a devisee may petition after one (1) year, from the appointment of the original personal representative, except that no petition under this section may be entertained until the time for presenting claims which arose prior to the death of the decedent has expired. The petition may request the court to consider the final account or compel or approve an accounting and distribution, to construe the will and adjudicate final settlement and distribution of the estate. After notice to all devisees and the personal representative and hearing, the court may enter an order or orders, on appropriate conditions, determining the persons entitled to distribution of the estate under the will, and, as circumstances require, approving settlement and directing or approving distribution of the estate and discharging the personal representative from further claim or demand of any devisee who is a party to the proceeding and those he represents. If it appears that a part of the estate is intestate, the proceedings shall be dismissed or amendments made to meet the provisions of section [15-3-1001](#) of this Part.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-1002, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-1003. CLOSING ESTATES -- BY SWORN STATEMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE. (a) Unless prohibited by order of the court and except for estates being administered in supervised administration proceedings, a personal representative may close an estate by filing with the court no earlier than six (6) months after the date of original appointment of a general personal representative for the estate, a verified statement stating that he, or a previous personal representative whom he has succeeded, has or have:

- (1) determined that the time limitation for presentation of creditors' claims has expired;
- (2) fully administered the estate of the decedent by making payment, settlement or other disposition of all claims that were presented, expenses of administration and estate, inheritance and other death taxes, except as specified in the statement, and that the assets of the estate have been distributed to the persons entitled. If any claims remain undischarged, the statement must state whether the personal representative has distributed the estate subject to possible liability with the agreement of the distributees or state in detail other arrangements that have been made to accommodate outstanding liabilities; and
- (3) sent a copy thereof to all distributees of the estate and to all creditors or other claimants of whom he is aware whose claims are neither paid nor barred and has furnished a full account in writing of his administration to the distributees whose interests are affected thereby.

(b) If no proceedings involving the personal representative are pending in the court one (1) year after the closing statement is filed, the appointment of the personal representative terminates.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-1003, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1991, ch. 87, sec. 6, p. 194.]

15-3-1004. LIABILITY OF DISTRIBUTEES TO CLAIMANTS. After assets of an estate have been distributed and subject to section [15-3-1006](#), Idaho Code, an undischarged claim not barred may be prosecuted in a proceeding against one (1) or more distributees. No distributee shall be liable to claimants for amounts received as exempt property or homestead, or for amounts in ex-

cess of the value of his distribution as of the time of distribution. As between distributees, each shall bear the cost of satisfaction of unbarred claims as if the claim had been satisfied in the course of administration. Any distributee who shall have failed to notify other distributees of the demand made upon him by the claimant in sufficient time to permit them to join in any proceeding in which the claim was asserted against him loses his right of contribution against other distributees.

[15-3-1004, added 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1978, ch. 350, sec. 15, p. 923; am. 2016, ch. 262, sec. 5, p. 684.]

15-3-1005. LIMITATIONS ON PROCEEDINGS AGAINST PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE. Unless previously barred by adjudication and except as provided in the closing statement, the rights of successors and of creditors whose claims have not otherwise been barred against the personal representative for breach of fiduciary duty are barred unless a proceeding to assert the same is commenced within six (6) months after the filing of the closing statement. The rights thus barred do not include rights to recover from a personal representative for fraud, misrepresentation, or inadequate disclosure related to the settlement of the decedent's estate.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-1005, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-1006. LIMITATIONS ON ACTIONS AND PROCEEDINGS AGAINST DISTRIBUTEES. Unless previously adjudicated in a formal testacy proceeding or in a proceeding settling the accounts of a personal representative or otherwise barred, the claim of any claimant to recover from a distributee who is liable to pay the claim, and the right of any heir or devisee, or of a successor personal representative acting in their behalf, to recover property improperly distributed or the value thereof from any distributee is forever barred at the later of (i) three (3) years after the decedent's death; or (ii) one (1) year after the time of distribution thereof, except if the claim is by a creditor of the decedent, it is forever barred three (3) years after the decedent's death. This section does not bar an action to recover property or value received as the result of fraud, or an action commenced by the state tax commission to collect state taxes.

[15-3-1006, added 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1991, ch. 87, sec. 7, p. 195; am. 1997, ch. 113, sec. 3, p. 280; am. 2014, ch. 134, sec. 2, p. 370.]

15-3-1007. CERTIFICATE DISCHARGING LIENS SECURING FIDUCIARY PERFORMANCE. After his appointment has terminated, the personal representative, his sureties, or any successor of either, upon the filing of a verified application showing, so far as is known by the applicant, that no action concerning the estate is pending in any court, is entitled to receive a certificate from the registrar that the personal representative appears to have fully administered the estate in question. The certificate evidences discharge of any lien on any property given to secure the obligation of the personal representative in lieu of bond or any surety, but does not preclude action against the personal representative or the surety.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-1007, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-1008. SUBSEQUENT ADMINISTRATION. If other property of the estate is discovered after an estate has been settled and the personal representative discharged or after one (1) year after a closing statement has been filed, the court upon petition of any interested person and upon notice as it directs may appoint the same or a successor personal representative to administer the subsequently discovered estate. If a new appointment is made, unless the court orders otherwise, the provisions of this code apply as appropriate; but no claim previously barred may be asserted in the subsequent administration.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-1008, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-1009. DECREE OF DISTRIBUTION TO ATTORNEY GENERAL. Whenever any estate involves, or may involve, a charitable trust, the court shall at the time of distribution of said estate forward to the attorney general of the state of Idaho a certified copy of said decree of distribution of the estate which involves or may involve said charitable trust.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-1009, as added by 1972, ch. 201, sec. 15, p. 510.]

#### PART 11. COMPROMISE OF CONTROVERSIES

15-3-1101. EFFECT OF APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS INVOLVING TRUSTS, INALIENABLE INTERESTS, OR INTERESTS OF THIRD PERSONS. A compromise of any controversy as to admission to probate of any instrument offered for formal probate as the will of a decedent, the construction, validity, or effect of any probated will, the rights or interests in the estate of the decedent, of any successor, or the administration of the estate, if approved in a formal proceeding in the court for that purpose, is binding on all the parties thereto including those unborn, unascertained or who could not be located. An approved compromise is binding even though it may effect a trust or an inalienable interest. A compromise does not impair the rights of creditors or of taxing authorities who are not parties to it.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-1101, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-1102. PROCEDURE FOR SECURING COURT APPROVAL OF COMPROMISE. The procedure for securing court approval of a compromise is as follows:

(a) The terms of the compromise shall be set forth in an agreement in writing which shall be executed by all competent persons and parents acting for any minor child having beneficial interests or having claims which will or may be affected by the compromise. Execution is not required by any person whose identity cannot be ascertained or whose whereabouts is unknown and cannot reasonably be ascertained.

(b) Any interested person, including the personal representative or a trustee, then may submit the agreement to the court for its approval and for execution by the personal representative, the trustee of every affected testamentary trust, and other fiduciaries and representatives.

(c) After notice to all interested persons or their representatives, including the personal representative of the estate and all affected trustees of trusts, the court, if it finds that the contest or controversy is in good faith and that the effect of the agreement upon the interests of persons represented by fiduciaries or other representatives is just and

reasonable, shall make an order approving the agreement and directing all fiduciaries under its supervision to execute the agreement. Minor children represented only by their parents may be bound only if their parents join with other competent persons in execution of the compromise. Upon the making of the order and the execution of the agreement, all further disposition of the estate is in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-1102, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

#### PART 12.

#### COLLECTION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY BY AFFIDAVIT AND SUMMARY ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURE FOR SMALL ESTATES

15-3-1201. COLLECTION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY BY AFFIDAVIT. (a) Thirty (30) days after the death of a decedent, any person indebted to the decedent or having possession of tangible personal property or an instrument evidencing a debt, obligation, stock or chose in action belonging to the decedent shall make payment of the indebtedness or deliver the tangible personal property or an instrument evidencing a debt, obligation, stock or chose in action to a person or entity claiming to be the successor of the decedent upon being presented an affidavit made by or on behalf of the successor stating that:

- (1) The fair market value of the entire estate of the decedent which is subject to probate, wherever located, less liens and encumbrances, does not exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000);
- (2) Thirty (30) days have elapsed since the death of the decedent;
- (3) No application or petition for the appointment of a personal representative or for summary administration is pending or has been granted in any jurisdiction; and
- (4) The claiming successor is entitled to payment or delivery of the property, including entitlement as a trust pursuant to a will of the decedent.

(b) A transfer agent of any security shall change the registered ownership on the books of a corporation from the decedent to the successor or successors upon the presentation of an affidavit as provided in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) For the purposes of this section, for the recovery of medical assistance, the department of health and welfare shall be deemed a successor to the estate provided:

- (1) Prior to the presentation of the affidavit, the department shall give notice, by regular mail, to any person known to the department to be an heir, successor or creditor of the estate, and the department shall certify such notice in writing to the person described in subsection (a) of this section.
- (2) Within sixty (60) days of mailing the notice, any person who claims the right to reimbursement for priority estate expenses, as permitted by section [15-3-805](#)(a)(1) through (4), Idaho Code, may submit a written demand for payment of such expenses, together with any documentation of the expenses, to the department. Upon receipt of the funds, and up to the amount received, the department shall pay priority claims which it determines would be allowed in a probate proceeding, if any. The department shall notify each claimant of the disposition of his claim. The provisions of [chapter 52, title 67](#), Idaho Code, shall apply to determinations made by the department under this section.

[15-3-1201, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 1993, ch. 253, sec. 1, p. 879; am. 1995, ch. 167, sec. 1, p. 650; am. 1997, ch. 212, sec. 1, p. 631; am. 2002, ch. 216, sec. 1, p. 595; am. 2006, ch. 160, sec. 1, p. 480; am. 2006, ch. 179, sec. 1, p. 553.]

15-3-1202. EFFECT OF AFFIDAVIT. The person paying, delivering, transferring, or issuing personal property or the evidence thereof pursuant to affidavit is discharged and released to the same extent as if he dealt with a personal representative of the decedent. He is not required to see to the application of the personal property or evidence thereof or to inquire into the truth of any statement in the affidavit. If any person to whom an affidavit is delivered refuses to pay, deliver, transfer, or issue any personal property or evidence thereof, it may be recovered or its payment, delivery, transfer, or issuance compelled upon proof of their right in a proceeding brought for the purpose by or on behalf of the persons entitled thereto. Any person to whom payment, delivery, transfer or issuance is made is answerable and accountable therefor to any personal representative of the estate or to any other person having a superior right.

[I.C., sec. 15-3-1202, as added by 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233.]

15-3-1203. SMALL ESTATES -- SUMMARY ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE. If it appears from the inventory and appraisal that the value of the entire estate, less liens and encumbrances, does not exceed homestead allowance, exempt property, costs and expenses of administration, reasonable funeral expenses, and reasonable and necessary medical and hospital expenses of the last illness of the decedent, the personal representative, without giving notice to creditors, may immediately disburse and distribute the estate to the persons entitled thereto and file a closing statement as provided in section [15-3-1204](#) of this part.

[15-3-1203, added 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 2014, ch. 134, sec. 3, p. 370.]

15-3-1204. SMALL ESTATES -- CLOSING BY SWORN STATEMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE. (a) Unless prohibited by order of the court and except for estates being administered by supervised personal representatives, a personal representative may close an estate administered under the summary procedures of section [15-3-1203](#) of this part by filing with the court, at any time after disbursement and distribution of the estate, a verified statement that:

- (1) To the best knowledge of the personal representative, the value of the entire estate, less liens and encumbrances, did not exceed homestead allowance, exempt property, costs and expenses of administration, reasonable funeral expenses, and reasonable, necessary medical and hospital expenses of the last illness of the decedent;
- (2) The personal representative has fully administered the estate by disbursing and distributing it to the persons entitled thereto; and
- (3) The personal representative has sent a copy of the closing statement to all distributees of the estate and to all creditors or other claimants of whom he is aware whose claims are neither paid nor barred and has furnished a full account in writing of his administration to the distributees whose interests are affected.



(b) If no actions or proceedings involving the personal representative are pending in the court one (1) year after the closing statement is filed, the appointment of the personal representative terminates.

(c) A closing statement filed under this section has the same effect as one filed under section [15-3-1003](#) of this code.

[15-3-1204, added 1971, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 233; am. 2014, ch. 134, sec. 4, p. 370.]

15-3-1205. SUMMARY ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES IN WHICH A SURVIVING SPOUSE IS THE SOLE BENEFICIARY. (a) Upon the testate or intestate death of a person leaving a surviving spouse as the sole devisee or beneficiary, the surviving spouse (or any person claiming title to any property through or under such surviving spouse) may file a verified petition setting out marriage and the death of a person leaving a surviving spouse as the sole devisee or heir. If the decedent died testate, the petition must be accompanied by the original of the last will and testament of the decedent. Notice of hearing shall be given pursuant to the provisions of section [15-1-401](#), Idaho Code.

(b) If it shall appear at such hearing that the decedent and the person claimed to be the surviving spouse were duly married and that the surviving spouse is the sole heir or devisee, a decree shall be made to that effect. This decree shall thereafter have the same effect as a formal decree approving or determining distribution. The petitioner, or the surviving spouse, or both, need not appear in person at such hearing, nor must an attorney for the petitioner spouse appear in person at such hearing. The petitioner or the attorney for the petitioner, or both, may either:

- (1) Upon proper motion made by the petitioner, appear telephonically; or
- (2) Submit one (1) or more affidavits in advance of the hearing certifying that notice of hearing was given as required by law and that no objection to the entering of the decree has been received by the petitioner or the attorney for the petitioner.

(c) In the event that the surviving spouse (or person claiming through or under the surviving spouse) shall elect to proceed under this section, the surviving spouse shall assume and be liable for any and all indebtedness that might be a claim against the estate of the decedent and there will be no administration of the estate of the decedent.

[15-3-1205, added 1973, ch. 124, sec. 2, p. 234; am. 1974, ch. 199, sec. 4, p. 1516; am. 2003, ch. 60, sec. 1, p. 206; am. 2005, ch. 121, sec. 1, p. 396.]

### PART 13 UNIFORM ESTATE TAX APPORTIONMENT

15-3-1301. SHORT TITLE. This part may be cited as the "Uniform Estate Tax Apportionment Act."

[15-3-1301, added 2004, ch. 54, sec. 2, p. 247.]

15-3-1302. DEFINITIONS. As used in this part:

(a) "Apportionable estate" means the value of the gross estate as finally determined for purposes of the estate tax to be apportioned reduced by:

(1) Any claim or expense allowable as a deduction for purposes of the tax;

(2) The value of any interest in property that, for purposes of the tax, qualifies for a marital or charitable deduction or otherwise is deductible or is exempt; and

(3) Any amount added to the decedent's gross estate because of a gift tax on transfers made before death.

(b) "Estate tax" means a federal, state, or foreign tax, however denominated, imposed because of the death of an individual and interest and penalties associated with the tax. The term does not include an inheritance tax, income tax, or generation-skipping transfer tax other than a generation-skipping transfer tax incurred on a direct skip taking effect at death.

(c) "Gross estate" means, with respect to an estate tax, all interests in property subject to the tax.

(d) "Person" has the same meaning set forth in section [15-1-201](#) (34), Idaho Code.

(e) "Ratable" means apportioned or allocated pro rata according to the relative values of interests to which the term is to be applied. "Ratably" has a corresponding meaning.

(f) "Time-limited interest" means an interest in property which terminates on a lapse of time or on the occurrence or nonoccurrence of an event or which is subject to the exercise of discretion that could transfer a beneficial interest to another person. The term does not include a cotenancy unless the cotenancy itself is a time-limited interest.

(g) "Value" means, with respect to an interest in property, fair market value as finally determined for purposes of the estate tax that is to be apportioned, reduced by any outstanding debt secured by the interest without reduction:

- (1) For taxes paid or required to be paid; or
- (2) For any special valuation adjustment.

[15-3-1302, added 2004, ch. 54, sec. 2, p. 247; am. 2020, ch. 82, sec. 5, p. 177.]

15-3-1303. APPORTIONMENT BY WILL OR OTHER DISPOSITIVE INSTRUMENT. (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c), the following rules apply:

(1) To the extent that a provision of a decedent's will expressly and unambiguously directs the apportionment of an estate tax, the tax must be apportioned accordingly regardless of whether such will is probated.

(2) Any portion of an estate tax not apportioned pursuant to paragraph (a) (1) of this section must be apportioned in accordance with any provision of a revocable trust of which the decedent was the settlor which expressly and unambiguously directs the apportionment of an estate tax. If conflicting apportionment provisions appear in two (2) or more revocable trust instruments, the provision in the most recently dated instrument prevails. For purposes of this paragraph:

(A) A trust is revocable if it was revocable immediately after the trust instrument was executed, even if the trust subsequently becomes irrevocable; and

(B) The date of an amendment to a revocable trust instrument is the date of the amended instrument only if the amendment contains an apportionment provision.

(3) If any portion of an estate tax is not apportioned pursuant to paragraph (a) (1) of this section or paragraph (a) (2) of this section, and a

provision in any other dispositive instrument expressly and unambiguously directs that any interest in the property disposed of by the instrument is or is not to be applied to the payment of the estate tax attributable to the interest disposed of by the instrument, the provision controls the apportionment of the tax to that interest.

(b) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, and unless the decedent expressly and unambiguously directs the contrary, the following rules apply:

(1) If an apportionment provision directs that a person receiving an interest in property under an instrument is to be exonerated from the responsibility to pay an estate tax that would otherwise be apportioned to the interest,

(A) The tax attributable to the exonerated interest must be apportioned among the other persons receiving interests passing under the instrument, or

(B) If the values of the other interests are less than the tax attributable to the exonerated interest, the deficiency must be apportioned ratably among the other persons receiving interests in the apportionable estate that are not exonerated from apportionment of the tax.

(2) If an apportionment provision directs that an estate tax is to be apportioned to an interest in property a portion of which qualifies for a marital or charitable deduction, the estate tax must first be apportioned ratably among the holders of the portion that does not qualify for a marital or charitable deduction and then apportioned ratably among the holders of the deductible portion to the extent that the value of the nondeductible portion is insufficient.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection, if an apportionment provision directs that an estate tax be apportioned to property in which one (1) or more time-limited interests exist, other than interests in specified property under section [15-3-1307](#), Idaho Code, the tax must be apportioned to the principal of that property, regardless of the deductibility of some of the interests in that property.

(4) If an apportionment provision directs that an estate tax is to be apportioned to the holders of interests in property in which one (1) or more time-limited interests exist and a charity has an interest that otherwise qualifies for an estate tax charitable deduction, the tax must first be apportioned, to the extent feasible, to interests in property that have not been distributed to the persons entitled to receive the interests.

(c) A provision that apportions an estate tax is ineffective to the extent that it increases the tax apportioned to a person having an interest in the gross estate over which the decedent had no power to transfer immediately before the decedent executed the instrument in which the apportionment direction was made. For purposes of this subsection, a testamentary power of appointment is a power to transfer the property that is subject to the power.

(d) For purposes of this section, a decedent's will, revocable trust, or other dispositive instrument that contains the applicable phrase(s) set forth in paragraphs (1), (2) or (3) of this subsection (or other substantially similar language in other dispositive instruments not listed in said paragraphs), shall satisfy the part's requirement for an express and unambiguous direction as to what properties are to bear or not bear the payment of those taxes. Other language may be used to direct the apportionment of the

estate tax, but if it is determined by a court that the direction in the will, trust, or other dispositive instrument does not expressly and unambiguously direct the apportionment of all of the estate tax with respect to all property that constitutes the gross estate, the estate tax that is not clearly and unambiguously apportioned shall be apportioned in accordance with the provisions of this part. The portions of said phrase(s) set forth in parentheses indicate suggestions or descriptions of alternate language for the word or phrase immediately preceding the language in parentheses which may be added, deleted, or varied in the instrument. Said phrases are:

- (1) In the case of a will, "all taxes arising as a result of my death, whether attributable to assets passing under this will or otherwise, shall be paid out of the residue of my probate estate (or apportioned to other specifically identified assets, probate or otherwise)"; or
- (2) In the case of a revocable trust, "all taxes arising as a result of the Grantor's (Settlor's or Trustor's) death, whether attributable to assets passing under this trust instrument or otherwise, shall be paid out of the residue of the trust estate (or apportioned to other specifically identified assets in trust or otherwise)"; or
- (3) In the case of a charitable remainder trust as to assets already transferred to or in the trust, "no estate taxes and state death taxes shall be charged or apportioned to and paid from the assets of this charitable remainder trust" or "The (lifetime or term) annuity (unitrust) interest of the Successor Recipient (Beneficiary) will take effect upon the death of the Initial Recipient (Beneficiary) only if the Successor Recipient (Beneficiary) furnishes the funds for payment of any federal estate taxes and state death taxes for which the Trustee may be liable upon the death of the Initial Recipient (Beneficiary). If the funds are not furnished by the Successor Recipient (Beneficiary), the annuity (unitrust) period shall terminate on the death of the Initial Recipient (Beneficiary), notwithstanding any other provision in this instrument to the contrary."

[15-3-1303, added 2004, ch. 54, sec. 2, p. 247.]

15-3-1304. STATUTORY APPORTIONMENT OF ESTATE TAXES. To the extent that apportionment of an estate tax is not controlled by an instrument described in section [15-3-1303](#), Idaho Code, and except as otherwise provided in sections [15-3-1306](#) and [15-3-1307](#), Idaho Code, the following rules apply:

(1) Subject to subsections (2), (3) and (4) of this section, the estate tax is apportioned ratably to each person that has an interest in the apportionable estate.

(2) A generation-skipping transfer tax incurred on a direct skip taking effect at death is charged to the person to whom the interest in property is transferred.

(3) If property is included in the decedent's gross estate because of section 2044 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or any similar estate tax provision, the difference between the total estate tax for which the decedent's estate is liable and the amount of estate tax for which the decedent's estate would have been liable if the property had not been included in the decedent's gross estate is apportioned ratably among the holders of interests in the property. The balance of the tax, if any, is apportioned ratably to each other person having an interest in the apportionable estate.

(4) Except as otherwise provided in section [15-3-1303](#)(b)(4), Idaho Code, and except as to property to which section [15-3-1307](#), Idaho Code

applies, an estate tax apportioned to persons holding interests in property subject to a time-limited interest must be apportioned, without further apportionment, to the principal of that property.

[15-3-1304, added 2004, ch. 54, sec. 2, p. 249.]

15-3-1305. CREDITS AND DEFERRALS. Except as otherwise provided in sections [15-3-1306](#) and [15-3-1307](#), Idaho Code, the following rules apply to credits and deferrals of estate taxes:

(1) A credit resulting from the payment of gift taxes or from estate taxes paid on property previously taxed inures ratably to the benefit of all persons to which the estate tax is apportioned.

(2) A credit for state or foreign estate taxes inures ratably to the benefit of all persons to which the estate tax is apportioned, except that the amount of a credit for a state or foreign tax paid by a beneficiary of the property on which the state or foreign tax was imposed, directly or by a charge against the property, inures to the benefit of the beneficiary.

(3) If payment of a portion of an estate tax is deferred because of the inclusion in the gross estate of a particular interest in property, the benefit of the deferral inures ratably to the persons to which the estate tax attributable to the interest is apportioned. The burden of any interest charges incurred on a deferral of taxes and the benefit of any tax deduction associated with the accrual or payment of the interest charge is allocated ratably among the persons receiving an interest in the property.

[15-3-1305, added 2004, ch. 54, sec. 2, p. 250.]

15-3-1306. INSULATED PROPERTY, ADVANCEMENT OF TAX. (a) In this section:

(1) "Advanced fraction" means a fraction that has as its numerator the amount of the advanced tax and as its denominator the value of the interests in insulated property to which that tax is attributable.

(2) "Advanced tax" means the aggregate amount of estate tax attributable to interests in insulated property which is required to be advanced by uninsulated holders under subsection (c) of this section.

(3) "Insulated property" means property subject to a time-limited interest which is included in the apportionable estate but is unavailable for payment of an estate tax because of impossibility or impracticability.

(4) "Uninsulated holder" means a person who has an interest in uninsulated property.

(5) "Uninsulated property" means property included in the apportionable estate other than insulated property.

(b) If an estate tax is to be advanced pursuant to subsection (c) of this section by persons holding interests in uninsulated property subject to a time-limited interest other than property to which section [15-3-1307](#), Idaho Code applies, the tax must be advanced, without further apportionment, from the principal of the uninsulated property.

(c) Subject to section [15-3-1309](#) (b) and (d), Idaho Code, an estate tax attributable to interests in insulated property must be advanced ratably by uninsulated holders. If the value of an interest in uninsulated property is less than the amount of estate taxes otherwise required to be advanced by the holder of that interest, the deficiency must be advanced ratably by the persons holding interests in properties that are excluded from the apportion-

able estate under section [15-3-1302](#) (a) (2), Idaho Code, as if those interests were in uninsulated property.

(d) A court having jurisdiction to determine the apportionment of an estate tax may require a beneficiary of an interest in insulated property to pay all or part of the estate tax otherwise apportioned to the interest if the court finds that it would be substantially more equitable for that beneficiary to bear the tax liability personally than for that part of the tax to be advanced by uninsulated holders.

(e) When a distribution of insulated property is made, each uninsulated holder may recover from the distributee a ratable portion of the advanced fraction of the property distributed. To the extent that undistributed insulated property ceases to be insulated, each uninsulated holder may recover from the property a ratable portion of the advanced fraction of the total undistributed property.

(f) Upon a distribution of insulated property for which, pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, the distributee becomes obligated to make a payment to uninsulated holders, a court may award an uninsulated holder a recordable lien on the distributee's property to secure the distributee's obligation to that uninsulated holder.

[15-3-1306, added 2004, ch. 54, sec. 2, p. 250.]

15-3-1307. APPORTIONMENT AND RECAPTURE OF SPECIAL ELECTIVE BENEFITS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Special elective benefit" means a reduction in an estate tax obtained by an election for:

(A) A reduced valuation of specified property that is included in the gross estate;

(B) A deduction from the gross estate, other than a marital or charitable deduction, allowed for specified property; or

(C) An exclusion from the gross estate of specified property.

(2) "Specified property" means property for which an election has been made for a special elective benefit.

(b) If an election is made for one (1) or more special elective benefits, an initial apportionment of a hypothetical estate tax must be computed as if no election for any of those benefits had been made. The aggregate reduction in estate tax resulting from all elections made must be allocated among holders of interests in the specified property in the proportion that the amount of deduction, reduced valuation, or exclusion attributable to each holder's interest bears to the aggregate amount of deductions, reduced valuations, and exclusions obtained by the decedent's estate from the elections. If the estate tax initially apportioned to the holder of an interest in specified property is reduced to zero, any excess amount of reduction reduces ratably the estate tax apportioned to other persons that receive interests in the apportionable estate.

(c) An additional estate tax imposed to recapture all or part of a special elective benefit must be charged to the persons that are liable for the additional tax under the law providing for the recapture.

[15-3-1307, added 2004, ch. 54, sec. 2, p. 251.]

15-3-1308. SECURING PAYMENT OF ESTATE TAX FROM PROPERTY IN POSSESSION OF FIDUCIARY. (a) A fiduciary may defer a distribution of property until the

fiduciary is satisfied that adequate provision for payment of the estate tax has been made.

(b) A fiduciary may withhold from a distributee an amount equal to the amount of estate tax apportioned to an interest of the distributee.

(c) As a condition to a distribution, a fiduciary may require the distributee to provide a bond or other security for the portion of the estate tax apportioned to the distributee.

[15-3-1308, added 2004, ch. 54, sec. 2, p. 252.]

15-3-1309. COLLECTION OF ESTATE TAX BY FIDUCIARY. (a) A fiduciary responsible for payment of an estate tax may collect from any person the tax apportioned to and the tax required to be advanced by the person.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in section [15-3-1306](#), Idaho Code, any estate tax due from a person that cannot be collected from the person may be collected by the fiduciary from other persons in the following order of priority:

- (1) Any person having an interest in the apportionable estate which is not exonerated from the tax;
- (2) Any other person having an interest in the apportionable estate;
- (3) Any person having an interest in the gross estate.

(c) A domiciliary fiduciary may recover from an ancillary personal representative the estate tax apportioned to the property controlled by the ancillary personal representative.

(d) The total tax collected from a person pursuant to this part may not exceed the value of the person's interest.

[15-3-1309, added 2004, ch. 54, sec. 2, p. 252.]

15-3-1310. RIGHT OF REIMBURSEMENT. (a) A person required under section [15-3-1309](#), Idaho Code, to pay an estate tax greater than the amount due from the person under section [15-3-1303](#) or [15-3-1304](#), Idaho Code, has a right to reimbursement from another person to the extent that the other person has not paid the tax required by section [15-3-1303](#) or [15-3-1304](#), Idaho Code, and a right to reimbursement ratably from other persons to the extent that each has not contributed a portion of the amount collected under section [15-3-1309](#) (b), Idaho Code.

(b) A fiduciary may enforce the right of reimbursement under subsection (a) of this section on behalf of the person that is entitled to the reimbursement and shall take reasonable steps to do so if requested by the person.

[15-3-1310, added 2004, ch. 54, sec. 2, p. 252.]

15-3-1311. ACTION TO DETERMINE OR ENFORCE PART. A fiduciary, transferee, or beneficiary of the gross estate may maintain an action including, but not limited to, petitioning for declaratory judgment, to have a court determine and enforce this part or may petition a court pursuant to section [15-3-704](#) or [15-7-201](#), Idaho Code, whichever is applicable.

[15-3-1311, added 2004, ch. 54, sec. 2, p. 253.]

15-3-1312. UNIFORMITY OF APPLICATION AND CONSTRUCTION. In applying and construing this uniform act, consideration must be given to the need to pro-

mote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it.

[15-3-1312, added 2004, ch. 54, sec. 2, p. 253.]

15-3-1313. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this part or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this part which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this part are severable.

[15-3-1313, added 2004, ch. 54, sec. 2, p. 253.]

15-3-1314. DELAYED APPLICATION. (a) Sections [15-3-1303](#) through [15-3-1307](#), Idaho Code, do not apply to the estate of a decedent who dies prior to January 1, 2005.

(b) For the estate of a decedent who dies on or after the effective date of this act, but prior to January 1, 2005, and as to which sections [15-3-1303](#) through [15-3-1307](#), Idaho Code do not apply, estate taxes must be apportioned pursuant to the law in effect immediately before the effective date of this act.

[15-3-1314, added 2004, ch. 54, sec. 2, p. 253.]