

Senior Law Project

Preparation of Voluntary Administration Paperwork

Volunteers of Legal Service



VOLS was founded in 1984 to close the access to justice gap through partnerships with community organizations, law firms and corporations. We train and mentor pro bono attorneys from law firms and corporations to provide free legal services to our clients.



What is Voluntary Administration



- The process of settling a small estate by obtaining access to and distributing the decedent's property.
- Small estate:
 - Personal property valued under \$50,000;
 - No real property in the decedent's name alone; and
 - $\circ~$ No possibility of a wrongful death or other lawsuit in the future.
- What is **NOT** a part of an estate:
 - Assets with living beneficiaries (e.g., retirement accounts with living beneficiaries);
 - Assets which are jointly owned (e.g., joint bank accounts or jointly held property); and
 - Property held in trust.
- Can be done regardless of whether the decedent left a **last will and testament**.
- The person handling the small estate is the **voluntary administrator**.
- SCPA Article 13.

Who Can Be the Voluntary Administrator

- If the decedent **left a last will and testament**, the executor named in the document may apply to be the voluntary administrator.
 - If the named executor cannot do so, the alternate executor may apply. The primary executor will need to sign a renunciation, or if deceased, their death certificate must be filed.
 - If there is no named executor/alternate executor available, priority goes to the sole beneficiary, followed by any beneficiary, followed by the closest distributee (spouse, adult children, adult grandchildren, parents, adult siblings, nieces/nephews, aunts/uncles).
- If the decedent **did not leave a last will and testament**, the court looks to the priority of the above-noted distributees.
- If there is no one available to serve, the **Public Administrator** will handle the estate.

Who Cannot Be the Voluntary Administrator



• Automatically barred:

- Infants;
- Incompetents;
- A non-domiciliary non-citizen except one who is a foreign guardian, or one who shall serve with one or more co-fiduciaries, at least one of whom is a resident of NYS; and
- Those who do not possess the qualifications required of a fiduciary by reason of substance abuse, dishonesty, improvidence, want of understanding, or who are otherwise unfit to serve.
- Ineligible in the court's discretion:
 - $\circ~$ Those unable to read and write English; and
 - People convicted of a felony whose crime may be adverse to the welfare of the estate, including crimes such as embezzlement or any crime where there was a misappropriation of money of breach of fiduciary duty.

Voluntary Administration Paperwork



• Always required

- Affidavit in relation to settlement of small estate under Article 13, SCPA;
- Heirship/pedigree affidavit; and
- Report and account of settlement of small estate pursuant to Article 13, SCPA.

• Sometimes required

- Family tree affidavit;
- Renunciation of voluntary administration;
- Due diligence affidavit; and
- Amended affidavit in relation to settlement of small estate under Article 13, SCPA.



- Must be completed.
- Requires information about your client and information about the decedent, including their distributees, their beneficiaries, their items of personal property and their values, and their liabilities and their amounts.

		URT OF THE STATE OF N				_
		NISTRATION, Estate of	X	AFFIDAVIT IN SETTLEMENT OF ES ARTICLE 13, SCPA	N RELATION TO STATE UNDER)
		Decea	, sed.	File No (as of 11/2019)		
	STATE OF		X	(INSTRUCTIONS: In cor each question. This may by crossing out words in instances by inserting th	be done in some parenthesis and i	e instances n some
	l,			, being du	uly sworn, depos	se and say
	(1) My permanent ad		Address)	(City/T	own/Village)	
	(County)	(State)	(Zip)	(Telep	hone Number)	
	My mailing address is		permanent address)			
	My email address is:		· ·			
	(2) My interest is:] Distributee of dec	cedent (Relationship)			
] Other (Specify)				
	(3) The name, perma relates, are as follows	anent address, date, place s:	of death, and citizenship	o of the decedent, to wh	ose estate this	proceeding
	Name of Decedent (a	a/k/a, if applicable):				
If regiding in a purging	Permanent Address:	(Street Address)	(City/Town/Village)		(County)	(State)
If residing in a nursing home, address depends on intent to	Date of Death:		Place of Death:	(City/Town/Village)		(State)
return to community.	Citizenship of Decede	ent:				
	(4) Decedent died:] Intestate (without] Testate (the origi				

(5) A search of the records of the Court shows that no application has been made in, the estate of the decedent for voluntary administration, letters of administration or for probate of a will, and your affiant is informed and verily believes that no such application ever has been made to any other Surrogate's Court in this state.

(6) The names and addresses of the decedent's distributees under New York law, including non-marital children and descendants of predeceased non-marital children, and their relationship to the decedent, are as follows: (If more space is needed, add a sheet of paper)

See EPTL 4-1.1.	Name	Mailing Address, (Including Zip)	Relationship Indicate if non-marital)	
			·	
		name and address of all beneficiaries in the will of the de	ecedent filed herewith are as	
	follows: (If more space is needed, <u>Name</u>	add a sheet of paper) <u>Mailing Address, (Including Zip)</u>	Bequest	
	 The value of the entire person accounts, U.S. savings bonds PO EPTL §5-3.1, does not exceed \$ 	al property, wherever located, of the decedent, exclusive D (payable on death), and jointly owned personal property, \$50,000.00.	of joint bank accounts, trust or property exempt under the	
	owned personal property, or prop	bank accounts, trust accounts, U.S. savings bonds POD (perty exempt under EPTL §5-3.1, is a complete list of all peer own name or owned by him/her beneficially and includie ded, add a sheet of paper)	sonal property owned by the	
Value of account may be	Items of <u>Separate</u>	Personal Property <u>IV Listed</u> <u>V</u> a	alue of Each Item	Decedent may have left a safe deposit box.
unknown.				
Client may be unable to access decedent's apartment.				

TOTAL \$ _____

(10) All the liabilities of the decedent known to me are as follows: (If more space is needed, add a sheet of paper)



(11) I undertake to act as voluntary administrator of the decedent's estate, and to administer it pursuant to Article 13 of the Surrogate's Court Procedure Act. I agree to reduce all of the decedent's assets to possession; to liquidate such assets to the extent necessary; to open an estate bank account in a bank of deposit or savings bank in this state, in which I shall deposit all money received; to sign all checks drawn on or withdrawals from such account in the name of the estate by myself, as voluntary administrator; to pay the expenses of administration, the decedent's reasonable funeral expenses and his/her debts in the order provided by law; and to distribute the balance to the person or persons and in the amount or amounts provided by law. As voluntary administrator, I shall file in this court an account of all receipts and of disbursements made.

(12) I understand that this proceeding will not determine the estate tax liability, if any, in the event that the decedent had any interest in real property or any joint bank accounts, trust accounts, U.S. savings bonds POD (payable on death), or jointly owned or trust property.

(13) If letters testamentary or of administration are later granted, I acknowledge that my powers as voluntary administrator shall cease, and I shall deliver to the court-appointed fiduciary a complete statement of my account and all assets and funds of the estate in my possession.

Signature of Affiant

Print Name

Sworn to before me on

_____, 20 _____

Notary Public My Commission Expires: (Affix Notary Stamp or Seal)

Signature of Attorney:	
Print Name:	
Firm Name:	Tel. No.:
Address of Attorney:	

An attorney licensed to practice in New York State, affiliated with [FIRM NAME], assisted in the preparation of this document on a pro bono basis. Neither the firm nor the attorney is entering an appearance on behalf of this party.

Family Tree Affidavit



- May or may not need to be completed. If the decedent only has one distributee, or if the only distributees are grandparents, aunts/uncles, or cousins, this must be completed.
- Person completing form must:
 - Know the decedent's family tree;
 - Have no financial interest in the decedent's estate; and
 - Not be the only distributee, or the only distributee's spouse or child.

- Required if the decedent (the person who died) has only one distributee (heir) or if the distributees are grandparents, aunts-uncles, or cousins. Must be completed by a person who knows decedent's family tree, has no financial interest, and is not the only distributee, or the only distributee's spouse or child (UR 207.16[c]).
- ➤ Complete only as much of the form as required. If there are no relatives in a section, write "None."
- If a person's date of death is unknown, indicate whether that person died before the decedent (by writing "predeceased") or died after the decedent (by writing "post-deceased").
- ➤ If more space is needed, attach additional sheet(s). Sign on page 4 in front of a Notary Public.

PROCEEDING FOI Estate of	~	FAMILY TREE AFFIDAVIT	
a/k/a			
	Deceased	File No.	
STATE OF)		
COUNTY OF)		
I,	,	BEING DULY SWORN, DEPOSE AND SAY:	
I AM OVER THE AGE OF 18 AN	D RESIDE AT:		
MY RELATIONSHIP TO THE D	ECEDENT IS (examples: cousin,	family friend, clergyperson, etc.):	
MY RELATIONSHIP TO THE D I KNEW THE DECEDENT FOR BASED ON (examples: conversation	YEARS, AND MY KN	OWLEDGE OF HIS/HER FAMILY TREE IS	
I KNEW THE DECEDENT FOR BASED ON (examples: conversatio	YEARS, AND MY KN as with decedent or decedent's fam	OWLEDGE OF HIS/HER FAMILY TREE IS hily, visits, etc.):	
I KNEW THE DECEDENT FOR	YEARS, AND MY KN as with decedent or decedent's fam	OWLEDGE OF HIS/HER FAMILY TREE IS hily, visits, etc.):	
I KNEW THE DECEDENT FOR BASED ON (examples: conversatio	YEARS, AND MY KN as with decedent or decedent's fam ES (name most recent spouses first	SOWLEDGE OF HIS/HER FAMILY TREE IS hily, visits, etc.): t): > Decedent was never married [].	
I KNEW THE DECEDENT FOR BASED ON (examples: conversatio 1. a) <u>DECEDENT'S MARRIAG</u> <u>SURVIVING SPOUSE</u> :	YEARS, AND MY KN as with decedent or decedent's fam ES (name most recent spouses first	COWLEDGE OF HIS/HER FAMILY TREE IS aily, visits, etc.): b): > Decedent was never married []. >> Surviving spouse died after decedent [].	
I KNEW THE DECEDENT FOR BASED ON (examples: conversatio 1. a) DECEDENT'S MARRIAG <u>SURVIVING SPOUSE</u> : <u>EX-SPOUSE</u> : <u>EX-SPOUSE</u> :	YEARS, AND MY KN as with decedent or decedent's far ES (name most recent spouses first	XOWLEDGE OF HIS/HER FAMILY TREE IS nily, visits, etc.): i): > Decedent was never married [].	
I KNEW THE DECEDENT FOR BASED ON (examples: conversatio 1. a) DECEDENT'S MARRIAG <u>SURVIVING SPOUSE</u> : <u>EX-SPOUSE</u> : <u>EX-SPOUSE</u> :	YEARS, AND MY KN as with decedent or decedent's far ES (name most recent spouses first	XOWLEDGE OF HIS/HER FAMILY TREE IS hily, visits, etc.): i): > Decedent was never married [].	
I KNEW THE DECEDENT FOR BASED ON (examples: conversatio 1. a) DECEDENT'S MARRIAG <u>SURVIVING SPOUSE</u> : <u>EX-SPOUSE</u> : <u>EX-SPOUSE</u> :	YEARS, AND MY KN as with decedent or decedent's far ES (name most recent spouses first	XOWLEDGE OF HIS/HER FAMILY TREE IS nily, visits, etc.): i): > Decedent was never married [].	
I KNEW THE DECEDENT FOR BASED ON (examples: conversatio 1. a) <u>DECEDENT'S MARRIAG</u> <u>SURVIVING SPOUSE</u> : <u>EX-SPOUSE</u> : <u>EX-SPOUSE</u> : b) <u>DECEDENT'S CHILDREN</u>	YEARS, AND MY KN as with decedent or decedent's far ES (name most recent spouses first	AOWLEDGE OF HIS/HER FAMILY TREE IS hily, visits, etc.): t): > Decedent was never married []. t): > Decedent was never married []. i): > Decedent was never married to decedent. i): > Output died while married to decedent. i): 1 died while married to decedent. : 1 died while married to decedent. : 1 died while married to decedent. : 1 died while married to decedent.	
I KNEW THE DECEDENT FOR BASED ON (examples: conversatio 1. a) <u>DECEDENT'S MARRIAG</u> <u>SURVIVING SPOUSE</u> : <u>EX-SPOUSE</u> : <u>EX-SPOUSE</u> : b) <u>DECEDENT'S CHILDREN</u>	YEARS, AND MY KN as with decedent or decedent's far ES (name most recent spouses first	AOWLEDGE OF HIS/HER FAMILY TREE IS hily, visits, etc.): t): > Decedent was never married []. t): > Decedent was never married []. i): > Decedent was never married to decedent. i): > Output died while married to decedent. i): 1 died while married to decedent. : 1 died while married to decedent. : 1 died while married to decedent. : 1 died while married to decedent.	— DOD may be t

If there are no relatives in a section, type "none".

(1/19)

c) DECEDENT'S GRANDCHILDREN AND THEIR ABOVE-NAMED PARENT:

	NAME:	CHILD OF:	DATE OF DEATH (if deceased):
	d) <u>DECEDENT'S GREAT</u> (RANDCHILDREN AND THEIR ABOV	VE-NAMED PARENT:
	<u>NAME</u> :	CHILD OF:	DATE OF DEATH (if deceased):
Note the "stop".	<u>STOP</u> . Go to (2) only if no or all "Decedent's Children	one is listed above, everyone listed above a " listed above are non-marital children (bo	died before (predeceased) the decedent orn out of wedlock) of a male decedent.
-	2. <u>DECEDENT'S PARENT</u>	<u>s</u> :	DATE OF DEATH (if deceased):
	MOTHER:		
	FATHER:		
		(3) only if both parents died before (pred	
	3. a) <u>DECEDENT'S BROTHE</u> <u>NAME</u> :	RS AND SISTERS (include half-brothers	and nair-sisters): <u>DATE OF DEATH</u> (if deceased):
		AND NEPHEWS AND THEIR ABOVE-	NAMED PARENT:
	<u>NAME</u> :	CHILD OF:	DATE OF DEATH (if deceased):

c) DECEDENT'S GRANDNIECES AND GRANDNEPHEWS AND THEIR ABOVE-NAMED PARENT:

<u>NAME</u> :	CHILD OF:	DATE OF DEATH (if deceased)
STOP. Go to (4)	and (5) only if everyone listed above died	l before (predeceased) the decedent.
. a) DECEDENT'S MATE	ERNAL GRANDPARENTS (mother's side	of family): DATE OF DEATH (if deceased)
GRANDMOTHER:	(moner 5 suc	(in accessed)
GRANDFATHER:		
b) decedent's mate	RNAL AUNTS AND UNCLES:	
<u>NAME</u> :	<u>ANAL AUNTS AND UNCLES</u> .	DATE OF DEATH (if deceased)
		(
	ERNAL FIRST COUSINS AND THEIR 4	
c) <u>DECEDENT'S MATE</u> <u>NAME</u> :	ERNAL FIRST COUSINS AND THEIR # CHILD OF:	ABOVE-NAMED PARENT: DATE OF DEATH (if deceased)

5. a) DECEDENT'S PATERNAL GRANDPARENTS (father's side of family): DATE OF DEATH (if deceased):

GRANDMOTHER:

GRANDFATHER:

b) DECEDENT'S PATERNAL AUNTS AND UNCLES:

NAME:

DATE OF DEATH (if deceased):

c) DECEDENT'S PATERNAL FIRST COUSINS AND THEIR ABOVE-NAMED PARENT:

NAME:	CHILD OF:	DATE OF DEATH (if deceased):

If everyone listed above predeceased the decedent, list any first cousins once removed (children of predeceased first cousins) who survived the decedent and their above-named parent on a separate sheet (see EPTL 4-1.1[a][6],[7]).

THERE ARE NO OTHER PERSONS WHOSE DEGREE OF RELATIONSHIP TO THE DECEDENT IS THE SAME AS, OR NEARER TO, THE PERSONS NAMED ABOVE.

Signature:_____

Sworn to before me on

Print Name

Notary Public My Commission Expires: (Affix Notary Stamp or Seal)

- 4 -

, 20_

Heirship/Pedigree Affidavit



- Required in all estate proceedings, despite similarity to family tree affidavit.
- Person completing form must:
 - Know the decedent's family tree;
 - Be only up to the level of niece/nephew, if they are a distributee;
 - Have known the decedent for at least ten years, and in some counties, twenty years;
 - Have no financial interest in the estate; and
 - Not be the only distributee, or the only distributee's spouse or child.

HEIRSHIP / PEDIGREE AFFIDAVIT - Required in all Estate Proceedings

If the decedent (the person who died) has only one distributee (heir) or more than one distributee [spouse; child/child of pre deceased child; parent; sibling; niece/nephew; grand parent; aunt/uncle or cousin].

Child/child of pre deceased child; parent; sibiling; niece/nepnew; grand parent; aunuancie or cousinj.
 May be completed by anyone who knows decedent's family tree where the distributee is up to the level of niece/nephew. From the level of grand parents, aunts/uncles, or cousins that person must have no financial interest, and is not the only distribute, or the only distributee's spouse or child (UR 207.16c). A Due Diligence Affidavit may also be required at this level.

> Complete only as much of the form as required. If there are no relatives in a section, write "None."

- If a person's date of death is unknown, indicate whether that person died before the decedent (by writing "predeceased") or died after the decedent (by writing "post-deceased").
- > If more space is needed, attach additional sheet(s). Sign on page 4 in front of a Notary Public.

PROCEEDING FOR Estate of	X		AFFIDAVIT
	Deceased	File No	
STATE OF COUNTY OF)		
l,		, BEING DULY	SWORN, DEPOSE AND SAY:
I AM OVER THE AGE OF 18	AND RESIDE AT:		
MY RELATIONSHIP TO THE	DECEDENT IS (examples: cousi	n, family friend, cl	ergyperson, etc.):
	GES (name most recent spouses fi		➤ If surviving spouse died after
SURVIVING SPOUSE:_			
		[] divorced or [] died while married to decedent
EX-SPOUSE:			
EX-SPOUSE:		[] divorced or [] died while married to decedent
EX-SPOUSE: EX-SPOUSE: b) DECEDENT'S CHILDR		[] divorced or [] died while married to decedent k] and adopted children):
EX-SPOUSE: EX-SPOUSE: b) DECEDENT'S CHILDR	EN (include non-marital children [[] divorced or [born out of wedloc Adopted(A)]] died while married to decedent k] and adopted children):
EX-SPOUSE: EX-SPOUSE: b) DECEDENT'S CHILDR	<u>EN</u> (include non-marital children [l arital(M)/Non-Marital(NM)/	[] divorced or [born out of wedloc Adopted(A)]] died while married to decedent k] and adopted children):

NAME:	CHILD OF:	DATE OF DEATH (if deceased):
d) DECEDENT'S GRE	AT GRANDCHILDREN AND THEIR	ABOVE-NAMED PARENT:
NAME:	CHILD OF:	DATE OF DEATH (if deceased):
		1
<u>STOP</u> . Go to (2) only	if no one is listed above, everyone listed a	bove died before (predeceased) the decedent
or all "Decedent's Chil	ldren" listed above are non-marital childr	en (born out of wedlock) of a male decedent.
DECEDENT'S PAR	ENTS:	DATE OF DEATH (if deceased):
MOTHER:		
FATHER:		
FATHER:	Go to (3) only if both parents died before	e (predeceased) the decedent.
FATHER:		e (predeceased) the decedent.
FATHER:	Go to (3) only if both parents died before	e (predeceased) the decedent.
FATHER:	Go to (3) only if both parents died before	e (predeceased) the decedent.
FATHER:	Go to (3) only if both parents died before THERS AND SISTERS (include half-bro	e (predeceased) the decedent.
FATHER:	Go to (3) only if both parents died before THERS AND SISTERS (include half-bro	e (predeceased) the decedent others and half-sisters): <u>DATE OF DEATH</u> (if deceased):
FATHER:	Go to (3) only if both parents died before THERS AND SISTERS (include half-bro	e (predeceased) the decedent.
FATHER:	Go to (3) only if both parents died before THERS AND SISTERS (include half-bro	e (predeceased) the decedent others and half-sisters): <u>DATE OF DEATH</u> (if deceased):
FATHER: STOP. S. a) DECEDENT'S BRO NAME:	Go to (3) only if both parents died before THERS AND SISTERS (include half-bro	e (predeceased) the decedent.
FATHER: STOP. STOP. NAME: b) DECEDENT'S NIEC	Go to (3) only if both parents died before THERS AND SISTERS (include half-bro CES AND NEPHEWS AND THEIR ABO	e (predeceased) the decedent.
FATHER:	Go to (3) only if both parents died before THERS AND SISTERS (include half-bro CES AND NEPHEWS AND THEIR ABO	e (predeceased) the decedent.
FATHER: STOP. a) DECEDENT'S BRONE: NAME: b) DECEDENT'S NIECT	Go to (3) only if both parents died before THERS AND SISTERS (include half-bro CES AND NEPHEWS AND THEIR ABO	e (predeceased) the decedent.
FATHER: STOP. STOP. NAME: b) DECEDENT'S NIEC	Go to (3) only if both parents died before THERS AND SISTERS (include half-bro CES AND NEPHEWS AND THEIR ABO	e (predeceased) the decedent.
FATHER: STOP. STOP. NAME: b) DECEDENT'S NIEC	Go to (3) only if both parents died before THERS AND SISTERS (include half-bro CES AND NEPHEWS AND THEIR ABO	e (predeceased) the decedent.
FATHER: STOP. STOP. NAME: b) DECEDENT'S NIEC	Go to (3) only if both parents died before THERS AND SISTERS (include half-bro CES AND NEPHEWS AND THEIR ABO	e (predeceased) the decedent.
FATHER: STOP. STOP. NAME: b) DECEDENT'S NIEC	Go to (3) only if both parents died before THERS AND SISTERS (include half-bro CES AND NEPHEWS AND THEIR ABO	e (predeceased) the decedent.

NAME:	CHILD OF:	DATE OF DEATH (if decease
		11. for (and a second black and and and
STOP. Go to (4)	and (5) only if everyone listed above die	ed before (predeceased) the decedent.
4. a) DECEDENT'S MATE	RNAL GRANDPARENTS (mother's sid	de of family): DATE OF DEATH (if deceased
GRANDMOTHER:		
GRANDFATHER:		
b) DECEDENT'S MATER	NAL AUNTS AND UNCLES:	
NAME:		DATE OF DEATH (if deceased
		ABOVE-NAMED PARENT:
	RNAL FIRST COUSINS AND THEIR	
c) <u>DECEDEN T'S MATEI</u> <u>NAME</u> :		ABOVE-NAMED PARENT: DATE OF DEATH (if deceased
	RNAL FIRST COUSINS AND THEIR	
	RNAL FIRST COUSINS AND THEIR	
	RNAL FIRST COUSINS AND THEIR	
	RNAL FIRST COUSINS AND THEIR CHILD OF:	
	RNAL FIRST COUSINS AND THEIR CHILD OF:	
	RNAL FIRST COUSINS AND THEIR CHILD OF:	
	RNAL FIRST COUSINS AND THEIR CHILD OF:	
	RNAL FIRST COUSINS AND THEIR CHILD OF:	
	RNAL FIRST COUSINS AND THEIR CHILD OF:	
	RNAL FIRST COUSINS AND THEIR CHILD OF:	
	RNAL FIRST COUSINS AND THEIR CHILD OF:	
	RNAL FIRST COUSINS AND THEIR CHILD OF:	

5. a) DECEDENT'S PATERNAL	GRANDPARENTS (father's side of family):	DATE OF DEATH (if deceased
GRANDMOTHER:		
GRANDFATHER:		
b) DECEDENT'S PATERNAL	AUNTS AND UNCLES:	
NAME:		DATE OF DEATH (if deceased
c) <u>DECEDENT'S PATERNAL</u>	FIRST COUSINS AND THEIR ABOVE-NA	MED PARENT:
NAME:	CHILD OF:	DATE OF DEATH (if deceased
If everyone listed above predect first cousins) who survived the dece	eased the decedent, list any first cousins once re dent and their above-named parent on a separa	moved (children of predeceased = te sheet (see EPTL 4-1.1[a][6],[7]
THERE ARE NO OTHER PERSO SAME AS, OR NEARER TO, THI	NNS WHOSE DEGREE OF RELATIONSHI E PERSONS NAMED ABOVE.	P TO THE DECEDENT IS THE
	Signature:	
Sworn to before me on		
	_,20	Print Name
Notary Public		
My Commission Expires: (Affix Notary Stamp or Seal)	- 4 -	



If your client is not first in line to petition for voluntary administration, and the person/s prioritized in relation to your client does not want to administer the estate, such person will need to sign this form.

VOLUNTARY ADMINISTRAT	ON, Estate of		IATION OF VOLUNTARY DMINISTRATION (as of 11/2019)
	Deceased.	File No.	
TO THE SURROGATE'S COU	JRT:		
The undersigned, who	se domiciliary address is		
(Street Address)	(City/Town/Village)	(State)	(Zip)
Mailing Address	(Eity) fown/vinage)		
	(If different from do	omicile)	
being of full age and [check ar	id complete]		
[] a distributed	of the above-named decedent an	d related as a	
	(state relationship)	_	
	r legatee named in the decedent's		
hereby personally appears her chattels and credits of the dec	ein and renounces all right to act a	as voluntary adminis	strator of the goods,
	sucht.		
			uncing Party)
		(5	Print Name)
STATE OF)	(F	rint Name)
COUNTY OF			
On theday o	f, 20, before		
			and the state of the second second
	own to me to be the individual desc		
	own to me to be the individual desc	ne executed the sar	ne.
	own to me to be the individual desc	ne executed the sar	
	own to me to be the individual desc rson duly acknowledged that he/sh	ne executed the sar	ne.
	own to me to be the individual desc	ne executed the sar	ne.
instrument, and to me such pe	own to me to be the individual desc rson duly acknowledged that he/sh My commission expires:	ne executed the sar	ne. otary Public
instrument, and to me such pe Signature of Attorney:	own to me to be the individual desc rson duly acknowledged that he/sh My commission expires:	ne executed the sar	ne. otary Public
instrument, and to me such pe Signature of Attorney: Print Name of Attorney:	own to me to be the individual desc rson duly acknowledged that he/sh My commission expires:	ne executed the sar	ne. otary Public

Due Diligence Affidavit



- May need to be completed if client is unable to obtain information such as the full name of someone who must be listed on a form, or if the decedent may have been survived by only one distributee or distributees who are aunts/uncles, first cousins, or first cousins once removed.
- Requires information on distributees and other family members that is known based on a diligent search of the decedent's assets and related searches.
- Must be completed by someone who will not receive a share of the decedent's estate.
- Must show proof as to how each distributee is related to decedent, which includes a family tree, table, or diagram.
- If there is required information that cannot be obtained, affiant must show they have used due diligence in endeavoring to identify the identity, names, and addresses of such people.
 - Results should be obtained from sources including the decedent's personal belongings and the DMV and Board of Elections.

PROCEEDING FOR VOLUN Estate of a/k/a	TARY ADMINISTRATION	DUE DI AFFID	LIGENCE JAVIT	
	Deceased	File No	X	
STATE OF COUNTY OF)			
I AM OVER THE AGE OF 18	AND RESIDE AT:			
MY RELATIONSHIP TO THE	DECEDENT IS (examples: cousin,	family friend, clergyperson, e	tc.):	
	RYEARS, AND MY KN tions with decedent or decedent's fam		FAMILY TREE IS	
	no distributee][only one distributed, uncles, first cousins, or first cous		lationship to the	
AFFIDAVIT?) Attached exhibit	p of the sole distributee and the de of family tree/table? (NO TREE, THE SPOUSE OR ONLY CHILE	TABLE, OR DIAGRAM I		
	ANDPARENTS, AUNTS, UNCL and the decedent are provided in t		C.: The relationship	
No other persons of the same or spouse, children, siblings) who a	a near degree of relationships surv are deceased (date of death?)	vived the decedent. The dec	cedent had (parents,	
	of an uninterested person. (IF THE CANNOT BE THE SPOUSE OR			
i, petitioner, am a disinterested p	party and will not receive anything	g from the estate.		
	butees of the decedent's estate. In a ddresses of all such persons who a ving steps:			
 I examined the decedent [any other contact list]; 	's personal belongings, including a	address books (examples: [:	iPhone] [calendar]	Affiant r
2. I inquired the following	individuals and institutions		•	informa
 Relatives: I conta 	cted X's cousin and she informed	me that there are no other	relatives of decedent.	

Affiant must take steps to find nformation.

- etc.
- b. Neighbors
- c. Friends
- d. Former business associates and employers
- e. Post office
- f. Banks
- 3. I sent a letter to the last known address of any missing distributees (should be attached as exhibit) (I sent a letter to [missing distributee] at [last known address] on [date] informing them that [decedent] had died and they may have an interest in the estate.
- 4. I (sent a letter, called via telephone, conducted an internet search for) persons of same or similar name in the area where the person being sought lived (example: ancestry search, google search, checking the phone book)
- 5. To ascertain the address of [known distributee/next of kin], I wrote to the DMV and Board of Elections of the state or county of [HIS/HER] last-known address or examined the records

Sworn to before me on	Signature:
, 20	Print Name
Notary Public My Commission Expires:	
(Affix Notary Stamp or Seal)	- 4 -

Affidavit should include exhibits.



• Must be completed if, after becoming appointed voluntary administrator, client discovers there is personal property in addition to what was written on the original affidavit, as long as the value of the estate is still under \$50,000 and otherwise still qualifies as a small estate.

VOLUNTARY ADMINISTRATION, Estate of	AMENDED AFFIDAVIT IN RELATION TO SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE UNDER ARTICLE 13, SCPA
, Deceased.	(as of 11/2019)
X	File No
STATE OF) SS.: COUNTY OF	
COUNTY OF)	
I,, being duly su	worn, depose and say:
	dent and make this officient surgement to Asticle 10 of the
 I am the voluntary administrator of the above-named decer Surrogate's Court Procedure Act. The original and any amended a 	
I was found qualified to act as the voluntary administrator o County Surrogate's Court on the	of the above captioned estate by the
 The following items of personal property, owned by the above Affidavit of Voluntary Administration originally filed nor in any among 	
Items of Personal	
Property	
Separately Listed	Value of Each Item
	Total \$
voluntary administration.	Total \$additional certificates of
voluntary administration.	Total \$additional certificates of
voluntary administration. The value of all of the decedent's non-exempt assets still does not	Total \$additional certificates of exceed \$50,000.00.
voluntary administration. The value of all of the decedent's non-exempt assets still does not Sworn to before me on	Total \$additional certificates of exceed \$50,000.00.
voluntary administration. The value of all of the decedent's non-exempt assets still does not Sworn to before me on	Total \$additional certificates of exceed \$50,000.00.
 For the item of personal property listed in paragraph 3, I required voluntary administration. The value of all of the decedent's non-exempt assets still does not Sworn to before me on, 20 	Total \$additional certificates of exceed \$50,000.00.
voluntary administration. The value of all of the decedent's non-exempt assets still does not Sworn to before me on, 20 Notary Public	Total \$additional certificates of exceed \$50,000.00.
voluntary administration. The value of all of the decedent's non-exempt assets still does not Sworn to before me on, 20 Notary Public My Commission Expires:	Total \$additional certificates of exceed \$50,000.00.
voluntary administration. The value of all of the decedent's non-exempt assets still does not Sworn to before me on 20	Total \$additional certificates of exceed \$50,000.00.
voluntary administration. The value of all of the decedent's non-exempt assets still does not Sworn to before me on, 20 Notary Public My Commission Expires: (Affix Notary Stamp or Seal) Signature of Attorney:	Total \$additional certificates of exceed \$50,000.00.
voluntary administration. The value of all of the decedent's non-exempt assets still does not Sworn to before me on, 20 Notary Public My Commission Expires: (Affix Notary Stamp or Seal) Signature of Attorney: Print Name:	Total \$additional certificates of exceed \$50,000.00.
voluntary administration. The value of all of the decedent's non-exempt assets still does not Sworn to before me on, 20 Notary Public	Total \$additional certificates of exceed \$50,000.00.

Filing Process

- What's needed:
 - Above-noted paperwork;
 - Original death certificate;
 - Copy of marriage certificate if client is surviving spouse of decedent;
 - NYPD property voucher if there is one;
 - \$1 filing fee payable by cash or money order;
 - Copy of the funeral bill if there is one; and
 - Original plus one copy of the last will and testament DO NOT REMOVE THE STAPLES.
 - An affidavit of attesting witnesses, AKA self-proving affidavit, should accompany the will. If one was never completed, the will witnesses will need to be found to complete one.
- Everything is filed by client in the Surrogate's Court of the county in which the decedent was domiciled.





- If the judge decides the client qualifies to be the voluntary administrator, the client will be issued certificates of voluntary administration.
- One certificate of voluntary administration needed for each item in the paperwork, which are presented to the proper entity to complete a task.
- The voluntary administrator must:
 - Obtain decedent's property;
 - Open an estate account to deposit all monies belonging to the estate;
 - $\circ~$ Pay any debts or expenses; and
 - Distribute what is left to the will beneficiaries or decedent's heirs.



- Upon completion of the above duties, the voluntary administrator must close the estate by completing and filing this form.
- They must also file receipts or cancelled checks showing the payment of expenses of administration, disbursements, or distributions.

COUNTY OF _____

VOLUNTARY	ADMINISTRATION,	Estate of
-----------	-----------------	-----------

REPORT AND ACCOUNT IN SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 13, SCPA (as of 11/2019)

Deceased. File	e No.	

The undersigned, authorized by this court to act as the voluntary administrator of the above entitled estate, reports and accounts as follows:

1. There has come into my possession the following personal property of the deceased, which is on hand or has been converted into cash in the amounts indicated: Value ltem

[If more space is needed add a sheet of paper]

Total value of personal property and cash: \$

2. All of this personal property and cash have been disbursed or distributed as follows: Item or Cash To Whom

Receipts or canceled checks showing the payment of expenses of administration, disbursements, or distributions are annexed.

3. No part of the estate of the decedent remains in my possession.

Voluntary Administrator

_

Print Name of Voluntary Administrator

STATE OF) ss.:

COUNTY OF

____, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I have read the foregoing Report and Account and know the contents thereof; the matters and things therein stated are true of my own knowledge; the foregoing Account is in all respects just and true and contains a full, particular and true account of all money and property of the deceased coming into my possession; and the administration expenses, disbursements and distribution shown have been actually made for the purposes and reasons therein stated.

Sworn to before me on

_, 20____

Notary Public



- If it's discovered that the estate's value is greater than \$50,000 and/or that there is real property in the decedent's name alone, then the estate cannot be handled through voluntary administration. Either probate or administration will need to happen.
- If a beneficiary (if there was a will) or heir (if there was no will) of the decedent postdeceases the decedent, an estate will need to be opened for this person. This person's estate will be entitled to their share of the decedent's estate.

Additional Resources



www.volsprobono.org/probonolibrary





Thank You!