

Genna Fasullo LaPeer, Esq.:

So the probate process is what we do when somebody passes away and we need to administer their estate. So what does that mean? That means that we are, number one, collecting their assets into the estate, marshaling them into the estate. And then we are ensuring that creditors are identified, noticed, and paid. Taxes are paid, and then the expenses of administration are paid.

And then finally, once all of that has been taken care of, the final piece, and it's usually one of the more important pieces that at least our clients want to make sure, is that their loved ones or the beneficiaries of their estate also get whatever is at that point left to be distributed to them.

Korene Clemings:

It's just a process that we run down a checklist, so to speak and again, each case is different. They don't all require everything on the checklist, and it's personable, because not every case is the same. And we contact the clients frequently to make sure that we're getting everything filed and everything required by the courts to make sure that the last Will and Testament, if there is one, is adhered to, and that their assets are being distributed as appropriate per law and the will.

If there's mistakes that are made, that could come back and cost money, it could cost time, it could cost effort to try and make things right, if the estate process is not adhered to according to the rules and regulations, the statutes. We've had some cases where we've seen attorneys that have nicked and dimed clients, so to speak and we picked it up and ran with it and got it completed within the next few weeks. Where it shouldn't have taken two, three years to get something done that could be done in a year's time, so to speak. Because it's a sometimes hurry up and wait. There's a process, a waiting period for certain documents that are filed.