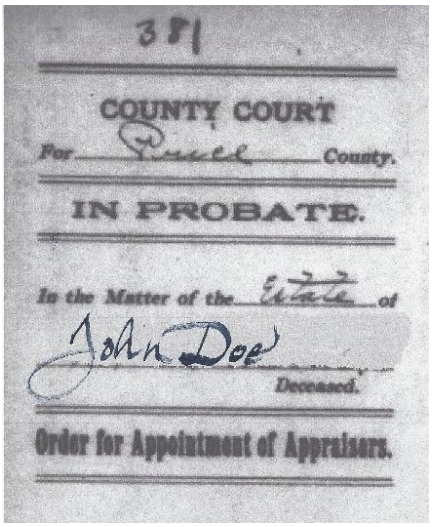
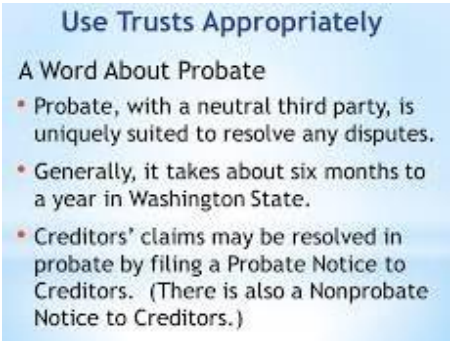
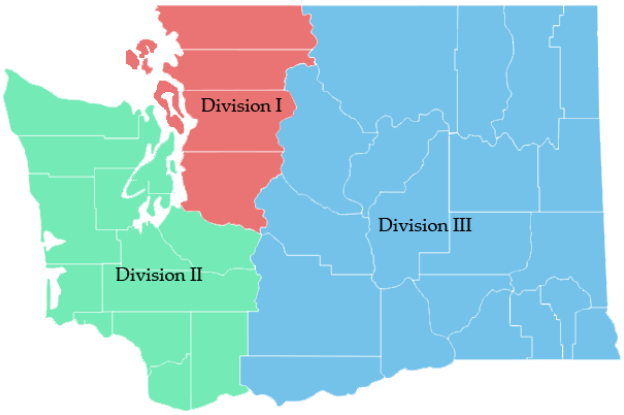
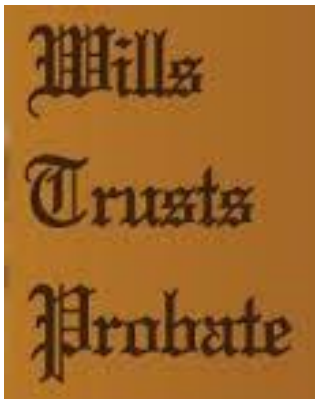
Join us for this month's TCGS meeting on 13 Sep 2017
Come to the Tri-City Genealogical Society at the Benton County PUD
7:00 PM — 2721 W 10th Ave — Kennewick WA
John Covey, former TCGS President, presents Probate Records
[*Beginning Genealogy Class by Margie Beldin – City Directories - 6:15 to 6:45 PM*]





The Washington State Court of Appeals Divisions





Do you know this about probate?

The purpose of probate is to prevent fraud after someone's death. If a person dies without a Will, it's called intestate, which goes through probate—Washington State law settles the estate rather than a will. A surviving person is appointed by the court if there is no Will (or nominated by the deceased person's Will). This survivor is the Executor or Personal Representative, and has the legal authority to gather and value the assets owned by the estate, pay bills and taxes, and distribute the remaining assets to the heirs or beneficiaries. Once a judge determines that a Will is valid, that all notifications, appraisals, payments and taxes have been made, the court issues an Order distributing the property and the estate is closed.

In Washington State, if a person's estate (home, bank accounts, cars) is worth less than $100,000, it qualifies for a 'small estate' and doesn't have to go through probate. Any IRA accounts or life insurance proceeds aren't counted because they go directly to the beneficiaries. There is a 40-day waiting period.