

How to **Efficiently Settle** the **Family Estate**

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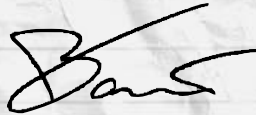
FOR THOSE WHO VALUE THEIR TIME

SETTling THE ESTATE WILL BE A PART-TIME JOB FOR MANY WEEKS OR MONTHS. Expect to spend many multi-hour sessions on the telephone, creating and managing a filing system, and running what amounts to a mini copy shop and courier enterprise. The skills required are the same as those you honed if you acted as a personal representative to your loved one during hospitalization: equanimity and fearless (and endless) questioning.

Unless you have the luxury of traveling between your home and your loved one's, and letting parts of the estate sit until the loss of your loved one is not so fresh, you may need to periodically set your grieving aside by compartmentalizing your feelings as you work on preliminary estate settlement tasks.

If you're trying to close your loved one's home and it's half a continent from your own, you've got even more work to do -- perhaps quickly. Even so, what you do at your loved one's home before returning to your own represents only the first phase of what settling an estate may require.

As with hospitalization, there are no dress rehearsals. Expect no forecasting of vital information to help you make decisions in your best interest. Rather, expect to have to unearth various possible options when conducting each bit of business.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bans', written in a cursive style.

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