

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT

Unit

PROBATE DIVISION

Case No. _____

In re ESTATE of:

LIST OF INTERESTED PERSONS

The *List of Interested Persons* is an extremely important document for the Probate Court and for others involved in the estate process. Therefore, a complete *List of Interested Persons* with the correct spelling of names and having the correct contact information for all Interested Persons is critical to an estate proceeding. The Court and others involved in the estate proceeding rely on the *List of Interested Persons* for several different reasons and throughout the entire estate administration proceeding.

Here are a few other points to remember when preparing the *List of Interested Persons*:

- If any *Interested Person* is under the age of 18 at the time the estate *Petition* is filed, then their date of birth must be included with their information.
- If there is no *Last Will and Testament* – an Intestate Estate proceeding - then the *Interested Persons* might, depending on the circumstances, be a surviving Spouse and/or certain “heirs- at-law.” Heirs-at-law are more fully discussed below in the numbered Paragraphs.
- When there is a *Last Will and Testament* - a Testate Estate proceeding – *Interested Persons* can include a surviving Spouse and/or certain “heirs-at-law” and also would include all individuals, organizations, Trusts, Charities, and the like named in a *Last Will and Testament*. Often, these Interested Persons are named Beneficiaries in the *Will*. See numbered Paragraph 7 below.

1. Surviving Spouse of the Decedent
2. Children of the Decedent (Heirs at Law)
 - All living children of the decedent
 - If the decedent had a child who has also passed away, then the children of that deceased child (grandchildren of the decedent) are also heirs at law, etc.
 - All adopted children of the decedent
 - All estranged children of the decedent
3. If the decedent did not have a surviving spouse or any children, then the heirs at law become the decedents living parents.
4. If the decedent did not have a surviving spouse, any children, or living parents, the heirs at law would include all living siblings of the decedent.
 - a. If any of the siblings of the decedent have also passed away, then the children of that deceased sibling (nieces/nephews of the decedent) are also heirs at law.
5. If the decedent did not have a surviving spouse, any children, living parents, or living siblings, then the heirs at law become the next closest kin in equal degree.
6. All other persons or entities named in the Last Will & Testament, if any.

