

CHAPTER 37

(Senate Bill 154)

AN ACT concerning

Estates and Trusts – Admission of Copy of Executed Will

FOR the purpose of authorizing an interested person to file a petition for admission of a copy of an executed will to probate under certain circumstances; providing that notice to interested persons of the filing of the petition is not required; establishing the form of a certain consent; authorizing an orphans' court to order administrative or judicial probate of a copy of a will; and generally relating to admission of a copy of an executed will to probate.

BY adding to

Article – Estates and Trusts

Section 5–801 through 5–804 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 8.
Admission of Copy of Executed Will”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2001 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Estates and Trusts

SUBTITLE 8. ADMISSION OF COPY OF EXECUTED WILL.

5–801.

(A) AN INTERESTED PERSON MAY FILE A PETITION FOR THE ADMISSION OF A COPY OF AN EXECUTED WILL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS OF THE FILING OF THE PETITION IS NOT REQUIRED.

5–802.

A PETITION FOR ADMISSION OF A COPY OF A WILL MAY BE FILED WITH THE COURT AT ANY TIME BEFORE ADMINISTRATIVE OR JUDICIAL PROBATE IF:

(1) THE ORIGINAL EXECUTED WILL IS ALLEGED TO BE LOST OR DESTROYED;

(2) A DUPLICATE REPRODUCTION OF THE ORIGINAL EXECUTED WILL, EVIDENCING A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL SIGNATURES OF THE DECEDENT AND THE WITNESSES, IS OFFERED FOR ADMISSION; AND

(3) ALL THE HEIRS AT LAW AND LEGATEES NAMED IN THE OFFERED WILL EXECUTE A CONSENT IN THE MANNER SET FORTH IN § 5-803 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

5-803.

THE CONSENT REQUIRED UNDER § 5-802 OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FOLLOWING FORM:

CONSENT TO PROBATE OF COPY OF EXECUTED LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED _____ AND _____,
BEING ALL THE HEIRS AT LAW OF THE DECEDENT AND ALL THE LEGATEES
NAMED IN THE WILL EXECUTED BY THE DECEDENT ON _____, HEREBY
CONSENT TO THE PROBATE OF A COPY OF THAT EXECUTED WILL, IT HAVING
BEEN DETERMINED, AFTER AN EXTENSIVE SEARCH OF THE DECEDENT'S
PERSONAL RECORDS, THAT AN ORIGINAL OF THE WILL CANNOT BE LOCATED.
BY SIGNING THIS CONSENT EACH OF THE UNDERSIGNED AFFIRMS THAT IT IS
HIS OR HER BELIEF THAT THE WILL EXECUTED BY THE DECEDENT ON _____,
IS THE LAST VALID WILL EXECUTED BY THE DECEDENT AND WAS NOT REVOKED
AND THAT THE COPY OF THE WILL, AS SUBMITTED WITH THE PETITION FOR ITS
ADMISSION, REPRESENTS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE WILL.

WE AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE FACTS SET FORTH
IN THIS CONSENT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE,
INFORMATION, AND BELIEF.

DATE	SIGNATURE	PRINT NAME AND RELATIONSHIP
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ATTORNEY

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NUMBER

5-804.

THE COURT MAY:

(1) WITHOUT A HEARING, ISSUE AN ORDER AUTHORIZING:

(I) THE PETITIONER TO PROCEED WITH ADMINISTRATIVE PROBATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBTITLE 3 OF THIS TITLE; AND

(II) THE REGISTER TO ACCEPT THE COPY OF THE WILL FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PROBATE; OR

(2) REQUIRE THE FILING OF JUDICIAL PROBATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBTITLE 4 OF THIS TITLE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or application to the estate of any decedent who died before the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2009.

Approved by the Governor, April 14, 2009.