**Small Estate Affidavit Next steps**

**Note: These instructions are not part of the Small Estate Affidavit.**

1. Sign and copy the Small Estate Affidavit form

* Make at least two copies of the completed affidavit. Attach a copy of the death certificate. Also attach a certified copy of the will that was filed if there is one.
* Sign and notarize the affidavit. You must sign this document in front of a Notary Public. Remember that by signing the affidavit you promise to pay the decedent’s debts before giving any money to anyone else.

2. Use the small estate affidavit

* You can show the affidavit to any person, bank or corporation that has property of the estate. The bank, person, or corporation must give away the property the way the affidavit says. Once the property is transferred, the person who gave you the property cannot be sued.
* The person or corporation that has the decedent’s property must turn over the property after you give them the small estate affidavit. If they don’t, you can file a civil court claim to get the property.

{%p if sos\_warning %}

* The Illinois Secretary of State’s office may require that you use their own small estate affidavit form for some vehicle transfers. You may need to copy the information from this form onto their form.

{%p endif %}

Learn more about transferring property with a small estate affidavit at <https://www.illinoislegalaid.org/legal-information/transferring-property-small-estate-affidavit>.