

# Adverse Possession Explained

## **Definition:**

Adverse possession is a legal doctrine allowing someone who openly occupies land without permission for a certain period (defined by state law) to claim legal ownership.

## **Key Requirements Include:**

- Continuous and exclusive possession for statutory duration (varies by state).
- Open and notorious use so that true owners have notice.
- Hostile possession without consent from rightful owner.

## **Use in Heirs' Property Cases:**

In cases where formal documents are missing, proving adverse possession may help heirs establish rights when they have maintained uninterrupted control over the property for years.