

THE DISTRIBUTION OF INTESTATE ESTATES
For deaths on or after 1 February 2009 in England and Wales

Deceased survived by both spouse/civil partner(CP) and issue

Spouse/CP receives

All personal chattels

£250,000 absolutely (or entire estate if less)

A life interest in one half of the residue

Issue receives

One half of any residue on the statutory trusts

plus the other half of the residue on the statutory trusts upon the death of the spouse/CP

Deceased survived by just a spouse/CP

Spouse/CP receives

All personal chattels

£450,000 absolutely (or entire estate if less)

One half of any residue absolutely

Remainder distributable to

The deceased's parents but if neither parent survives then on trust for the deceased's brothers and sisters of the whole blood and the issue of any such deceased brother or sister.

Spouse/CP survives but no issue, parents, brothers or sisters or their issue

Whole estate goes to the surviving spouse/CP.

No spouse/CP survives

The estate is distributed in the following strict order of entitlement, but no later class benefits if a member of an earlier class exists:

1. Issue of the deceased.
2. Parents.
3. Brothers and sisters and the issue of a deceased brother or sister.
4. Half-brothers and half-sisters and the issue of any deceased half-brother or half-sister.
5. Grandparents.
6. Uncles and aunts and the issue of any deceased uncle or aunt.
7. Half-brothers and half-sisters of the deceased's parents and the issue of any deceased half-uncle or half-aunt.
8. The Crown, the Duchy of Lancaster or the Duchy of Cornwall.