



The Fraser Law Firm, LLC Highlights Why Clear Probate Asset Identification Matters

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The Fraser Law Firm, LLC, an estate planning law firm in Hilton Head Island, SC, emphasizes the importance of identifying probate assets after a loved one's passing.

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Attorney Denny Fraser of The Fraser Law Firm, LLC notes that unclear asset inventories can delay estate administration and increase stress for families. In Beaufort County and nearby areas, determining which assets require probate remains a challenge. The firm focuses on public education to help families better understand probate assets and make the estate settlement process more efficient.

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The law firm explains that probate is the legal process used to identify and collect a deceased person's assets, pay debts, and distribute property according to South Carolina law. Assets that are titled exclusively in the decedent's name are typically subject to probate administration. Assets with valid beneficiary designations or certain joint ownership structures may pass outside probate by contract or operation of law, depending on how the asset is titled and documented.

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Clients of The Fraser Law Firm, LLC often ask, "What are probate assets in South Carolina?" These may

include the decedent's share of jointly owned property, depending on how the property is titled, such as property not held with rights of survivorship, personal bank accounts without beneficiaries, and real estate solely in the decedent's name. Other examples are household items, business interests, investments without transfer-on-death instructions, and vehicles titled in the decedent's name. The probate inventory submitted to the court generally lists probate property that is subject to administration.

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It is also important to identify assets that should not be included on the probate asset list. Assets with valid beneficiary designations or properly structured ownership may pass outside probate and transfer without formal probate administration. Examples may include real estate held with a valid right of survivorship, retirement accounts and life insurance policies with designated beneficiaries, funded trust assets, and accounts labeled payable-on-death or transfer-on-death.

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Misunderstanding these distinctions can lead to unnecessary confusion, additional filings, and missed opportunities to simplify property transfers. Uncertainty about probate assets can delay distribution and increase costs.

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The Fraser Law Firm has observed that families in Hilton Head Island and the surrounding areas often seek guidance in advance to reduce future confusion regarding probate assets. Proactive estate planning can help keep titles and beneficiary designations aligned with long-term objectives while clearly distinguishing probate and non-probate assets. Clarifying probate assets during planning may reduce the number of items subject to probate, help simplify the personal representative's responsibilities, and lower the risk of avoidable disputes.

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The Fraser Law Firm, LLC, also known as Denny Fraser Law and Hilton Head Island Law, provides estate planning and probate guidance for families navigating asset identification, probate administration, and related planning concerns. The firm's objective is to help families better understand the estate process and reduce confusion in the Lowcountry by providing clear information about probate asset identification.

The Fraser Law Firm, LLC is located on Hilton Head Island and provides legal services to individuals, families, and businesses in the surrounding area. The firm handles a variety of legal matters, including real estate law, construction law, estate planning, employment law, credit matters, property dispute, property owners' association issues, and general litigation.

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For additional information regarding probate assets or estate administration, contact The Fraser Law Firm, LLC (also known as Denny Fraser Law / Hilton Head Island Law) at (843) 681-9111 or visit hiltonheadislandlaw.com.

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About The Fraser Law Firm, LLC

The Fraser Law Firm, LLC provides legal services to clients in Bluffton, Hilton Head Island, Sun City, Okatie,

and surrounding South Carolina communities. The firm is led by attorney Denny Fraser, whose background includes both legal and construction experience. The firm focuses on clear communication, practical legal guidance, and personalized client service. It handles real estate transactions and closings, estate planning and probate, business formation, construction law, contracts, and debt collection.

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An attorney?client relationship with Fraser Law Firm, LLC begins only upon a written agreement and retainer payment, confirmed in a signed engagement letter. Do not send confidential information until such an agreement is executed.

Jurisdictional Statement:

Fraser Law Firm, LLC practices law exclusively within the State of South Carolina. Representation in other jurisdictions may involve association with local counsel.

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Fraser Law Firm, LLC

The Fraser Law Firm, LLC enjoys a broad private and corporate practice with focus on real estate transactions, construction law, estate planning, employment law, credit relations law, property owner?s association law and general litigation.

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