



# **Cortes Law Firm Educates Oklahoma Residents on Probate Lawyer Selection and Estate Planning Essentials**

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Cortes Law Firm, an estate planning and probate practice, today announced an educational initiative designed to help residents understand the critical factors involved in selecting qualified probate representation and navigating estate administration processes. The initiative addresses growing concerns about estate planning preparedness among Oklahoma families, particularly as recent studies indicate that about 60 percent of American adults lack basic estate planning documents.

The Oklahoma City-based firm has developed comprehensive resources to guide families through the often complex probate procedures required under Oklahoma state law. These materials cover essential topics such as will validation, asset distribution, intestate succession, and the role of executors in estate administration.

"Many Oklahoma families find themselves overwhelmed when dealing with probate matters after losing a loved one," said Steve Cortes, a spokesperson for the firm. "Understanding the probate process and having

proper legal guidance can significantly reduce stress during an already difficult time. Our goal is to ensure that Oklahoma residents have access to the information and support they need to make informed decisions about estate planning and administration."

Cortes Law Firm Oklahoma City has observed an increase in probate-related inquiries as more families recognize the importance of proper estate planning. The firm's educational resources address common misconceptions about probate procedures, including the timeline for estate settlement, tax implications, and the responsibilities of personal representatives.

The initiative emphasizes several key considerations for Oklahoma residents evaluating probate representation. These include understanding the attorney's experience with Oklahoma probate courts, familiarity with local procedures in Oklahoma County and surrounding jurisdictions, and expertise in handling both simple and complex estate matters.

Probate proceedings in Oklahoma typically involve multiple steps, from filing initial court documents to final asset distribution. The process requires careful attention to statutory requirements and deadlines established by Oklahoma law. Proper legal representation can help ensure compliance with these requirements while protecting the interests of beneficiaries and estate representatives.

Cortes Law Firm Oklahoma also highlights the importance of proactive estate planning to minimize future probate complications. This includes creating comprehensive wills, establishing trusts where appropriate, and ensuring proper asset titling. The firm notes that many probate disputes and delays can be prevented through careful advance planning.

"Estate planning is not just about distributing assets; it's about providing clarity and peace of mind for your family," added Cortes. "By taking steps now to organize your affairs and communicate your wishes, you can spare your loved ones unnecessary confusion and conflict later."

The firm's educational materials also address recent changes in federal estate tax exemptions and their impact on Oklahoma residents. While Oklahoma no longer imposes a state estate tax, understanding federal tax implications remains important for comprehensive estate planning.

Cortes Law Firm specializes in estate planning, probate law, and trust administration throughout Oklahoma. With over 20 years of experience serving Oklahoma families, the firm provides comprehensive services including will preparation, trust creation, probate administration, and estate litigation resolution. The practice maintains offices in Oklahoma City and serves clients throughout the state.

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## **Cortes Law Firm**

*Cortes Law Firm, based in Oklahoma City, guides families through probate, estate administration, and planning. Led by Stephen L. Cortes, the firm is known for clear communication, client focus, and community commitment.*

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