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2017 THE LAW & YOU Management Rights, Estates and Binding Financial Agreements

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ALL & INTERIOR STUDY

Testament

2. ESTATES

2.1 Key Terms & Different Grants

Person **(Testator)** passes away Goodman Lawyers

With a valid Will (**Testate**) Without a valid Will (**Intestate**)

Executor applies to the Court for Probate Relevant person applies for Letters of Administration on Intestacy

After Grant of Probate Executor administers according to Will After Grant of Letters of Administration, this person becomes the Administrator and administers the Estate according to s33B of the Succession Act

2.2 What happens if an Executor doesn't want to act?

- In Queensland, Executors may renounce their role under s 46 of the Succession Act
- In other states of Australia, Executors cannot renounce their position after they have taken steps to administer the Estate (e.g. paying bills of the Testator)



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Person **(Testator)** passes away

With a valid Will (Testate)

Executor is unable or unwilling to act

Without a valid Will (Intestate)

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Executor applies to the Court for Probate Relevant person applies to the Court for Letters of Administration of the Will

Relevant person applies for Letters of Administration on Intestacy

After Grant of Probate Executor administers according to Will This person becomes the Administrator and administers the Estate according to the Will

After Grant of Letters of Administration, this person becomes the Administrator and administers the Estate according to s33B of the Succession Act

2.3 What happens if a beneficiary passes away?

- For a gift to a beneficiary to be valid, the beneficiary must survive the testator by 30 days (s 33B *Succession Act 1981*).
- If the beneficiary does not survive the testator by 30 days, then the gift will fail and remain in the Testator's residuary estate
- Some exceptions for example if expressly stated otherwise in the Will



2.4 What happens if a beneficiary does not want their gift?

If a beneficiary does not want a gift under a Will, they can **disclaim** the gift.

To be effective, a disclaimer must be:

- 1. Timely
- 2. Peremptory
- 3. Communicated to the personal representative of the Estate



STANDARD SCENARIO

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Executor/Administrator administers Estate with 2 Beneficiaries.

Beneficiary A (e.g. sons or daughters) is entitled to a Gift. If Beneficiary A wants to give their gift to someone else, (Surviving Spouse, e.g. their mother), they have two choices.

