

What to do if you're unsure about the existence of a Will

If someone dies without a Will or the Will is invalid, it is referred to as dying "intestate". If you are unsure of the existence of a Will, you must do your due diligence to try and locate one.

This could include:

- Checking every property owned, rented, or leased by the deceased.
- Speak with any person who may have pertinent information or know the location of the Will.
- Contact banks to confirm there is no safety deposit box where the Will may have been stored.
- Contacting lawyers in the area as well as anywhere the deceased previously lived.
- You can contact the local Law Society if you need help locating the lawyer the deceased used.
- Search the [Canada Will Registry](#). In Quebec and BC there are provincial will registries that should be searched as well.
- Advertising may even be required.

If there is no Will, or it cannot be located, the estate has no legal representation, and no one can act on behalf of the estate. Letters of Administration may be required to settle the estate.

See 'Letters of Administration' for more details on this process.