



Chicago Estate Planning Council

330 N. Wabash Avenue, Suite 2000

Chicago, IL 60611

Tel: 312.673.4707 - cepec@smithbucklin.com



## What is an executor?



An “executor” is an individual, bank or trust company named in a decedent’s will and appointed by the court after the decedent’s death to administer the probate estate of the decedent. More than one individual or entity can act as co-executors. In some states the executor is called the “personal representative.” If a person does not name a personal representative in his or her will, or dies without a will, state law establishes the order in which a probate court appoints relatives to act as personal representatives. When the will does not nominate an executor or personal representative, or if there is no will, the person appointed by the court may be called an “administrator.” In common parlance, the term “executor” can be used to refer to an executor, personal representative or administrator, all of whom have similar duties.

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