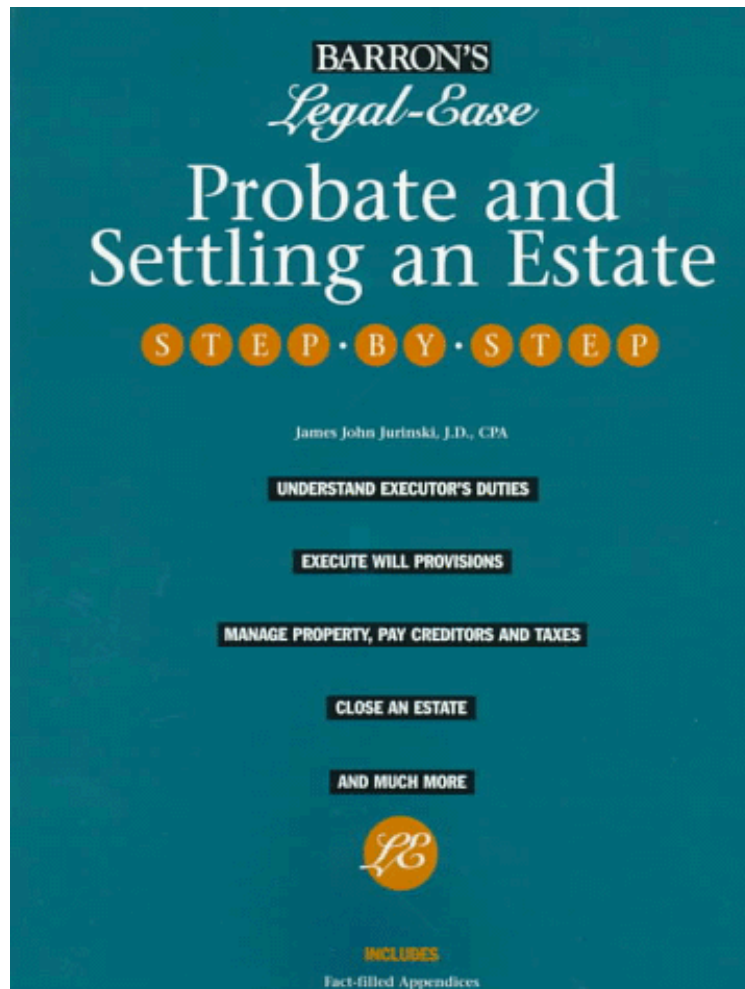


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Probate and Settling an Estate Step-By-Step (Barron's Legal-Ease)

James John Jurinski

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James John Jurinski : Probate and Settling an Estate Step-By-Step (Barron's Legal-Ease) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Probate and Settling an Estate Step-By-Step (Barron's Legal-Ease):

40 of 41 people found the following review helpful. Easy To Read By Michael Miano Though this book is easy to read, I believe that it is TOO simple-minded to be of much use for estate planning, preparing a will, settling an estate or anything else concerning death. The author clearly presumes that the reader knows absolutely nothing. More than half the book's pages are tax forms and the IRS instructions for preparing those forms (for the year 1996). Since all current forms are easily available for download from the IRS Internet site or from a local IRS office, including such old forms in the book can only serve to pad the book or to give a very general overview of the potential tax issues an executor may face. Moreover, the death tax laws since 1997 are barely mentioned. The author takes a great deal of space

explaining the definitions of terms which are commonly known and giving examples which are common sense. The best and most useful part of the book is Appendix B, which lists all of the states and shows the differences between them in matters concerning wills and taxes. Few other probate books give this information. Also, I should mention that the author avoids those repeated admonitions found in every other book supposedly written for new executors: "You are too stupid to figure out how to do this job. Hire a lawyer and an accountant!" If you are only interested in a very simple overview of probate, wills, estate planning, trusts, and death taxes, then this is the book for you. If however you need details and already understand many of the issues involved, go to your library or buy another book - preferably one written within the last couple of years.

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Didn't Know My Way To The Courthouse
By A Customer
This is a good book if you don't have a lawyer in the family who can answer your probate questions. I had never even been in the courthouse and I didn't know what to expect, so I found this book a big help. It answers the "dumb" questions that the other books skip. (My 3rd grade teacher always told me there's no such thing as a dumb question). There's also chapters on last illnesses and funerals which similar books don't have. On the other hand the tax materials seem dated, because it's an older book, but then again, if you're not a millionaire you won't be paying death taxes anyway. If you're going to serve as an executor or you're thinking about it and you can only afford to buy one book, this is the one to buy.

Topics covered include the executor's duties vis-a-vis the deceased and heirs, a general review of the probate process, the executor's role, details of probate, understanding a will's provisions, managing property, paying creditors and taxes, closing an estate, and dealing with special problems such as lost, multiple, and contested wills. Includes tables of claims, taxes, fees, and more.