

Law", sub-title "Settlement of Small Estates", be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Settlement of Small Estates

156. (Settlement of Small Estates.) (A) When anyone dies intestate, leaving a small estate consisting only of personal property, if the person who would be entitled to be appointed administrator files in the Orphans' Court having jurisdiction a Petition, under oath, declaring:

1. The time and place of decedent's death;
2. The known heirs;
3. The known creditors, together with the amount of each claim, including contingent and disputed claims;
4. The known assets;
5. That Petitioner has made a diligent search to discover all assets and debts of the decedent;
6. That said assets do not exceed ~~[\$500]~~ \$1,000 in value; and
7. That there are no known legal proceedings pending in which the decedent is a party;

the Orphans' Court, if satisfied that the allegations in said Petition are true, may pass a Preliminary Order declaring that no formal administration is necessary and instructing the Petitioner to publish once in substantially the usual form, notice to creditors to exhibit their claims, duly authenticated, within thirty (30) days after such notice, said notice to creditors shall be inserted in whatever newspapers the Orphans' Court or the Register of Wills shall direct.

156. (F) The discovery of any additional property of the decedent after the filing of the Petition shall be reported by the Petitioner to the Orphans' Court as soon as discovered by him. The existence of said additional property shall not invalidate any proceedings hereunder except when the additional property is discovered before the passage of the Final Order hereunder and either (1) is real estate or (2) increases the total value of the estate to more than ~~[\$500]~~ \$1,000, in which case no Final Order shall be passed under this section and the Court shall require regular administration. Where additional property is discovered after passage of the Final Order, if said property is entirely personal property and does not increase the value of the total estate to more than ~~[\$500]~~ \$1,000, then such additional property may be distributed pursuant to a new Petition under this section; in all other cases such additional property may not be distributed under this section.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1957.*

Approved March 1, 1957.