How to Avoid Probate in Arkansas

A quick checklist of the tools that keep your estate out of probate court

Avoiding probate isn't one decision — it's usually a handful of smaller ones. Work through this checklist asset by asset to see where you stand.

Your home

Consider recording a **beneficiary deed** naming who should receive the property. If your non-home assets exceed $100,000, consider whether a revocable living trust makes more sense for your full estate, home included.

Bank accounts

Call each bank and ask about adding a Payable on Death (POD) beneficiary. Confirm the designation is an actual POD form — not just an added name on the account (Power of Attorney/Co-Owner).

Investment accounts

Ask your brokerage about a Transfer on Death (TOD) designation. Confirm the designation with your statement or account portal

Retirement accounts and life insurance

Confirm a current beneficiary is listed on every IRA, 401(k), and life insurance policy. Update any beneficiary left over from a prior marriage or relationship

Jointly owned property

Identify anything owned jointly with right of survivorship. Weigh the tradeoffs before adding a new joint owner — it grants rights immediately, not just after death

Everything else

Specific items such as Aunt Jan's crystal vase are typically itemized in a Trust or Will. If you do not have a Trust or Will, you should list these out and leave them in the care of someone you trust. They will not be legally obligated to follow your wishes as with a Trust or Will but you can list it out and share your wishes.

Want the full picture?

The full "Avoiding Probate" guide is available in our Etsy shop for a few dollars — it's the same detailed, step-by-step instructions we've used to help our own clients transfer property outside of probate.

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